

Jeremy Miles AM
Counsel General and Brexit Minister

23 January 2020

Dear Jeremy

Inter-institutional relations agreement

At our meeting on 20 January 2020, the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee (the Committee) noted the letter of 14 January 2020 from the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs (the Minister) informing us of the forthcoming programme of meetings for the Inter-Ministerial Group Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Under the terms of the Inter-Institutional relations agreement (the agreement), the Welsh Government has agreed to provide the Committee, and any other relevant committee of the National Assembly, advanced written notice of Welsh Ministerial attendance at formal, intergovernmental meetings. Where advanced written notice is not practicable, correspondence should be issued as soon as possible and in advance of the meeting. As such, we were disappointed to receive the letter from the Minister only after the first meeting in the series outlined in her letter.

The agreement also requires that the Welsh Government provides the Committee, and any other relevant committee, with a written summary of the issues discussed at the meeting. I note that, following a meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations) on 9 January 2020, you issued a written statement to the National Assembly on 21 January summarising the meeting's proceedings. While I welcome this written statement, the Committee did not receive, under paragraphs 12 and 13 of the agreement, advanced written notice of the meeting of the JMC (EN).

Further, in your letter to us dated 13 September 2019 you said "in future where a written statement is appropriate we will notify you in advance of/on its publication". This advanced notification was not received ahead of your 21 January 2020 written statement.



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Under the terms of the agreement, we hope to receive a written summary of the IMG EFRA meeting, which took place on 13 January 2020, by 27 January 2020.

Similarly, I note from your 21 January written statement that you expect to host the next JMC (EN) meeting later this month in Cardiff, which will focus on finalising proposals for dispute resolution as part of the IGRR, and I look forward to receiving a written summary of the issues discussed at that meeting in due course.

We are aware of the work ongoing in the Welsh Government that relates not only to the UK's exit from the European Union, but also constitutional developments and the domestic programme of law-making. However, in your 13 September letter to us you confirmed that "the Welsh Government is fully committed the principles of transparency upon which the [Inter-institutional relations] agreement is based and supporting the Assembly's scrutiny role". It is for these reasons that we draw these matters to your attention.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to ask for an indication of when the Welsh Government will lay its first annual report on intergovernmental relations, as per paragraph 18 of the agreement.

Yours sincerely



Mick Antoniw AM
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

