



Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

25 November 2021

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your letter of 15 November. I updated the Committee on the quadrilateral meeting of frameworks Ministers in my letter of 19 November.

Regarding your specific points:

At the quadrilateral meeting, on 10 November, agreement was reached on cross cutting issues affecting the wording for Common Frameworks, namely to the wording of the text for International Relations, the Northern Ireland Protocol and the process for how exclusions for policy areas in frameworks impacted by the UK Internal Market Act will be delivered. As I explained in my letter of 19 November, the agreement of the Welsh Government to UKIMA exclusions text is without prejudice to the ongoing judicial review in relation to the Internal Market Act.

Following the quadrilateral meeting, the frameworks are progressing rapidly to publication for scrutiny by committees of the legislatures. The Public Health Protection and Health Security Framework has already been published, on 28 October. Framework documents are being finalised and publication dates are still fluid, but given these caveats every effort is being made to publish frameworks for scrutiny on the following dates:

2 December

Blood Safety and Quality; Organs Tissues and Cells; Company Law (NIE and UKG only); Specific Quantities (NIE and UKG only).

9 – 16 December

Emissions Trading Scheme; Late Payment; Radioactive Substances; Public Procurement; Agricultural Support; Agriculture – Fertiliser Regulations, Agriculture – Organic Farming;

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Agriculture – Zootech; Animal Health and Welfare; Plant Health; Plant Varieties and Seeds; Air Quality; Best Available Techniques (BAT: air quality); Food Compositional Standards and Labelling; Ozone Depleting Substances and F-Gases; Chemicals and Pesticides; Resources and Waste.

January 2022

Fisheries: Management and Support.

My officials have been liaising with committee clerks for some time on approaches to handling the frameworks and I understand Senedd officials are preparing to analyse frameworks and package them for scrutiny by Committees as soon as they are published.

The length of the framework scrutiny process is of course a matter for committees. It would be hugely desirable if the frameworks could be scrutinised and signed off before the beginning of Northern Ireland's pre-election period. This date has not yet been confirmed but it is likely to be in late March if the elections take place as scheduled on 5 May. I fully appreciate this puts very considerable pressure on already hard-pressed Committees to examine a very substantial amount of frameworks material in a short space of time. My frameworks policy team would be happy to offer any assistance they can to aid the scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

Mick Antoniw AS/MS

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution