

Vaughan Gething AS/MS  
Gweinidog yr Economi  
Minister for Economy



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Paul Davies MS  
Chair of Economy, Trade, and Rural  
Affairs Committee

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

[SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales)

[SeneddLJC@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddLJC@assembly.wales)

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Dear Paul, Huw

I am writing further to my letter of 21 January and in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, to inform you that I attended the Ministerial Forum for Trade on the 26 January.

The meeting was attended by Penny Mordaunt, Minister of State for Trade Policy; Ivan McKee, Scottish Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise; and Gordon Lyons, Northern Ireland Executive Minister for Economy.

During the meeting, we discussed ways of improving working arrangements following the review of intergovernmental relations (IGR). The forum's Terms of Reference (ToR) are currently under review and I highlighted the need for them to align with the IGR structure..

There was an update on the on-going Free Trade Agreement (FTAs) negotiations, including Canada and the United States. I raised the point that we still have concerns about the level of Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) granted in recent FTAs, as well as animal welfare standards, and I asked for clarification on how safeguards will protect Welsh industries. I reiterated that these concerns must be taken into account as future deals are negotiated.

The process for handling World Trade Organisation (WTO) trade disputes was also discussed during the meeting. It was agreed that discussions would continue to develop an approach that outlines how responsibility for any WTO trade dispute could be handled, in line with the UK's WTO and FTA obligations.

I will write to you again to inform you of the date of the next meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[YPCCGB@llyw.cymru](mailto:YPCCGB@llyw.cymru) [PSCGMET@gov.wales](mailto:PSCGMET@gov.wales)

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.

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