



HOUSE OF LORDS

Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee

House of Lords
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Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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Dear Huw,

I am writing to thank you, and your officials, for sharing recent correspondence you received from Mick Antoniw MS of 2 March concerning the Common Frameworks Programme.

We found the matters raised by your committee to be of the utmost importance. We were particularly pleased to see the Welsh Government have confirmed their commitment to regular ongoing reporting to the Senedd on common frameworks. This is a commitment we have repeatedly recommended that the UK Government should replicate. We believe this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability with respect to common frameworks and intergovernmental working more broadly. Our committee are therefore seeking updates from the UK Government concerning ongoing work being led by the Welsh Government to develop a mechanism for all governments to use for ongoing reporting to the legislatures.

We also note with interest the Minister's answers concerning the UK Internal Market Act exclusions process. We strongly advocate the new process for agreeing exclusions that was published in December, and are following up with both the Scottish and Welsh governments for their views on whether the process should be set out explicitly in the text of common frameworks. Doing so, we believe, is crucial to ensuring that there is no misunderstanding about the process that should be followed and that the devolution settlements must be respected.

We look forward to engaging with you further on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Andrews
Chair of the Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee