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Huw Irranca-Davies
Chair,
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

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Dear Huw,

Thank you for your letter, dated 21 July, seeking clarity about the UK Government's intention regarding the "potential repeal" of the Trade Union (Wales) Act 2017.

Employment and industrial relations are clearly reserved matters, something that the Wales Act 2017 put beyond doubt. There are good reasons for this, not least as many businesses and important public services operate across borders. It is important that both employers and employees have a clear framework to follow that applies equally across all parts of Great Britain.

This is why we are committed to taking steps to override the provisions of the Trade Union (Wales) Act 2017 when parliamentary time allows.

The Government made these intentions clear including when the Trade Union (Wales) Bill was passed by the National Assembly for Wales and the then Secretary of State for Wales (the Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP) wrote to the Assembly's Chief Executive and Clerk in August 2017. Given this commitment to remove the provisions in the Trade Union (Wales) Act 2017 has been Government policy for five years, we did not consider it necessary to take advantage of the new intergovernmental arrangements to discuss it with the Welsh Government.

We will, of course, look to engage on this further once a suitable legislative vehicle has been identified. I very much hope that the new intergovernmental arrangements will support that engagement at the appropriate time.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy