

Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister of Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref FM /0880/23

Elin Jones MS/AS
Llywydd
Senedd Cymru

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22 March 2023

Dear Elin

You will be aware the Senedd passed the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill on 6 December 2022. In the interests of transparency, I would like to describe the Government's intentions in relation to Royal Assent and coming into force of the Act.

The Minister for Climate Change gave evidence at three committees. I am copying this letter to the Chairs of those Committees.

The Bill engages the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement, which includes a legal requirement to provide a reasonable interval (usually six months) between the passing and publication of legislation which impacts on trade and its coming into force. This requirement is to allow businesses in WTO member countries to adapt their products to meet the demands of the new requirements. The Bill includes a number of substantive provisions which will commence the day after Royal Assent. Consequently, I do not intend to apply the Welsh Seal to the Letters Patent until the six-month WTO notification period has concluded in early June.

This is the first time since the United Kingdom left the European Union that the Senedd has passed a Bill which engages this WTO process. As a development of good practice, I will ensure that in future you are notified in writing about any other legislation which we expect to engage this this WTO procedure.

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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.

I happy to discuss this approach further with you when we meet later today. I am copying this letter to the Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and Chair of the Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD