



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

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

SeneddLJC@Senedd.Wales

12 May 2023

Dear Huw,

I am writing in response to your letter of 23 March seeking the Welsh Government's position on certain issues related to the Windsor Framework.

The UK Government has led negotiations with the European Commission in relation to matters arising from the Northern Ireland Protocol, as it has responsibility for international relations, including relations with the EU and its institutions. These led to the announcement on 27 February 2023 of new arrangements known as the Windsor Framework. The Welsh Government was informed by the UK Government of the agreement immediately prior to that public announcement.

The Welsh Government, along with the Scottish Government, was not invited to the meeting on 24 March 2023 of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee, in line with arrangements imposed by the UK Government since that Committee was established in 2020. The Welsh Government continues to request attendance at these meetings where issues of relevance to it are expected to be discussed. Welsh Government officials attended as observers at the Partnership Council meeting held on the same date.

The arrangements for pre-meetings between UK Government and Devolved Governments are now governed by the agreement following the [Review of intergovernmental relations \(HTML\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published in January 2022. The now established Interministerial Group on UK-EU Relations meets before meetings of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement Partnership Council and of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee. It duly met on 20 March 2023, before the above meetings held on 24 March 2023.

Yours sincerely,

MARK DRAKEFORD

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@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.