

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister of Wales

12 July 2023

Dear Mark,

UK/Switzerland: Agreement on Recognition of Professional Qualifications

You will be aware that the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of non-trade international agreements in the Sixth Senedd.

During our meeting on 10 July 2023, we considered the UK/Switzerland: Agreement on Recognition of Professional Qualifications. This agreement provides a framework for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications in the UK and Switzerland.

The agreement relates to regulatory requirements for professional qualifications, certain aspects of which are devolved to Wales. On that basis, we understand that the UK Government consulted the devolved administrations on the drafting of the agreement and the relevant draft text in advance of signature, and we welcome this engagement with the devolved governments.

We know that the *Professional Qualifications Act 2022* (the 2022 Act) contains powers which may be used by UK or devolved Ministers to implement international recognition agreements and therefore may be used to implement this agreement. You will be aware that Senedd withheld consent to the 2022 Act on two occasions, following consideration of the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memoranda.

We would welcome your view on the relationship, if any, between implementing international obligations and the Sewel Convention, in light of the Senedd having refused consent for the parent legislation that is being considered for this agreement's implementation.

I am copying this letter to the Children, Young People and Education Committee and the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

I would be grateful to receive your response by 11 August 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies

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Chair