

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS

First Minister for Wales

29 September 2023

Dear Mark,

As you are aware, 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 11 September 2023, we considered the UK-Norway-Liechtenstein-Iceland Convention on Social Security Coordination. This agreement provides for continued social security coordination between the UK (excluding Gibraltar and the Crown Dependencies) and Iceland, Liechtenstein and/or Norway post-Brexit.

Whilst the negotiation of reciprocal healthcare agreements is a reserved matter, it is within the legislative competence of the Senedd to implement certain aspects of this agreement, including the recovery of overseas visitor costs. On that basis, we understand that the UK Government engaged and consulted with health officials from the devolved governments, shared draft legal text and liaised on health implications.

We would be grateful if you could please provide more information on your engagement with the UK Government in relation to this agreement, as well as the steps the Welsh Government will take to ensure that the agreement is implemented in areas within devolved competence.

I would be grateful to receive a response by 19 October 2023.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee.

Yours sincerely,

*Huw Irranca-Davies*

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Chair

