

Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister
Vaughan Gething MS
Minister for Economy
Welsh Government

19 December 2023

**Shared Statement of Cooperation between the Welsh Government and the Government of
Baden-Württemberg**

Dear Mark and Vaughan

I am writing to you with regards to the Shared Statement of Cooperation concluded between the Welsh Government and the Government of Baden-Württemberg announced on 14 November 2023.

To date, the Committee has undertaken a detailed inquiry of the Shared Statement and Joint Action Plan between the Welsh and Irish governments. This work culminated in our report, followed by a productive and valuable debate in the Senedd on 29 November 2023. As you will both be aware, recommendation 11 of our report recommended that:

Where the Welsh Government adopts a similar approach for other priority international relationships, it should build in the findings of this report from the outset.

This recommendation was accepted by the Welsh Government in its response to the report.

I note that whilst you have issued a press release on the Welsh Government website, as well as updating the international bilateral agreements webpage, there does not appear to be any further detail available about this latest agreement. I would be grateful to understand why so little detail has been published by the Welsh Government now, compared with how much information was published relating to your government's agreement with Ireland. I would also note that the Government of Baden-Württemberg seems to have taken a different approach, by publishing a detailed announcement and the full text of the Shared Statement in both the German and English languages.

In light of the positive response we received from the First Minister to the Committee's recommendations on future international bilateral agreements, and indeed in light of the constructive spirit shown by the Welsh Government to our international relations scrutiny more broadly, I would have hoped that a copy of this Shared Statement would have been shared proactively with this Committee.

In order to inform the Committee's future work programme, I would be grateful if you could please:

- Provide a copy of the agreement to this Committee;
- Confirm whether any associated action plans have been agreed, and if so, please share copies of these with the Committee; and
- Confirm how recommendation 11 of the Wales-Ireland report, accepted by the Welsh Government, has or will be carried out in relation to this agreement.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.