

Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG  
Minister of State at the Cabinet Office  
UK Government

13 February 2024

Dear Baroness Neville-Rolfe,

Thank you for attending the Committee on 7 February to discuss the Border Target Operating Model and the Windsor Framework. The Committee welcomes your suggestion to maintain a dialogue with the Committee as the Border Target Operating Model is rolled out through 2024 and beyond. Members found the session very useful. Following the session, Members had some questions and I agreed to write to you for clarification. I would be pleased if you could respond to the following:

- The Committee welcomed your statements that you are keen to reduce the 'current asymmetry of trade' and that the UK Government has worked closely with the Irish Government and Irish authorities to 'keep friction as small as possible for Welsh ports'. As part of this work, has the UK Government discussed with the EU the possibility to further reduce barriers on indirect movements of qualifying Northern Ireland goods between Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland?
- You mentioned during the session that the UK Government is in touch with GB organisations. Would you be able to advise if any of these organisations are based in Wales?
- You advised that an announcement will be made shortly regarding the Common User Charge. Could you please notify the Committee when this is due to be made?
- Could you provide an update to the Committee on the UK-EU discussions on the Windsor Framework and Wales?



- The Welsh Government has repeatedly requested to attend meetings of the UK-EU Joint Committee when matters are discussed which have implications for Welsh ports. Is this a matter that could be reviewed in light of the developments discussed during the session?
- Please could you provide a written update on UK-EU conversations with the EU, including the five EU Member States of France, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain and Ireland. The Committee would be particularly interested in conversations with Ireland, given our geography.
- The Committee welcomes the activities you outlined to gather new data, however we are concerned this may not capture statistics relating to how many businesses may have ceased cross-border trading as a result of the post-Brexit regime. Would you be able to provide any statistics on that?

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



**Paul Davies MS**

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English