

Ref: 190SOS24

T: 0292 092 4216  
E: Correspondence@ukgovwales.gov.uk

Mr Mike Hedges MS  
Chair, Legislation Justice and Constitution Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[SeneddLJC@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddLJC@senedd.wales)

31 July 2024

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 18 July and for the good wishes. I am pleased to take up the role of Secretary of State for Wales and look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Senedd. I am replying to your letter on behalf of the UK Government.

I echo your comments on the importance of the relationships between the four nations. The work of your committee and our shared focus on constitutional matters relating to Welsh devolution are central to ensuring devolution in Wales thrives.

The UK Government is committed to a reset in intergovernmental relations and to upholding and strengthening the Sewel Convention; the way we legislate will be at the forefront of demonstrating this. This starts with rebuilding the trust that allows the four nations to work collaboratively together in law-making and beyond. The UK Government intends to work closely with the devolved governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, to reach consensus and deliver legislation in service of people across the United Kingdom. It is through strong collaboration between colleagues in the UK and Welsh governments that we will best ensure that the Senedd has sufficient time to carry out its important scrutiny work and that the views of the Senedd are taken into account in the legislative process. As you know, we also committed as part of our manifesto, to strengthening the Sewel Convention by setting out a new memorandum of understanding outlining how the nations will work together for the common good.

Ref: 190SOS24

T: 0292 092 4216  
E: Correspondence@ukgovwales.gov.uk

I note the concerns you raise relating to specific parts of the legislative process and the important role of the Senedd in implementing international obligations. I can assure you that the UK Government will always make Parliament aware of relevant matters concerning its bills and their devolution implications and will ensure the structures and institutions of intergovernmental working improve relationships and collaboration on policy. You also rightly point out the complexity of delegated powers where careful thought will be required on how these operate.

I am copying this letter to Eluned Morgan MS, First Minister of Wales designate; the Rt Hon Elin Jones MS, Llywydd; Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Cabinet Office; The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Deputy Prime Minister; The Rt Hon Nick Thomas Symonds MP, Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office (Minister for the Constitution and European Relations); Lord McFall of Alcluith, the Lord Speaker; and the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Yours sincerely,



**Rt Hon Jo Stevens MP**  
Secretary of State for Wales  
Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru