



Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

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12 November 2024

Dear Mike,

In reference to my letter of 10 October and in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Agreement, I am writing to update the Committee on the intergovernmental meetings held on 11 October.

The Council of the Nations and Regions

The inaugural meeting of the Council of the Nations and Regions took place in-person in Edinburgh. The Council was chaired by the Prime Minister. Others in attendance were: the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations; the First Minister of Scotland; the First Minister and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland; the Mayor of London; and mayors representing a number of English regions. A short communique was published following the meeting: [Council of the Nations and Regions: Inaugural meeting on 11 October 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

The establishment of the Council of the Nations and Regions reflects the positive reset in relations with the new UK Government and provides an opportunity to begin a new era of working in partnership across the UK. Our discussions served to highlight the breadth of shared priorities on which we can work in partnership, including supporting people into work, fostering innovation and investment – particularly as we transition to net zero and look to create jobs in green industries – and improving economic infrastructure and skills.

Prime Minister and Heads of Devolved Governments meeting

In advance of the Council of Nations and Regions, the Prime Minister and Heads of the Devolved Governments met to discuss economic growth priorities ahead of the UK Government's 30 October Budget Statement and publication of the Industrial Strategy Green Paper at the International Investment Summit on 14 October. Areas which featured during the discussion included enhancing productivity and the use of technologies such as

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Artificial Intelligence, skills, increasing and spreading investment across the UK, and making the most of the UK Government's overseas offices for the benefit of all countries in the UK. The discussion also covered our shared priority of delivering clean energy, and the importance of enhancing grid infrastructure in support of this.

In addition, the meeting enabled a discussion on the positive resetting of relationships between the UK Government and the devolved governments, and the structures and mechanisms to that can support effective intergovernmental working.

A short joint communique was issued after the meeting: [Prime Minister and Heads of Devolved Governments Meeting communiqué 11 October 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-and-heads-of-devolved-governments-meeting-communiqué-11-october-2024)

Bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister

A bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister provided an opportunity for us to discuss shared priorities and interests for our governments, including economic growth and support measures in the context of Tata and Port Talbot, freeports and investment zones. I also highlighted the importance of a range of financial matters, including funding to support the delivery of public services, coal tip safety, rail investment including HS2, capital funding, and budgetary flexibilities for the Welsh Government. In addition, the discussion covered broader aspects of our constitutional reform agenda, including the proposed devolution of Youth Justice and Probation, and the need to ensure the Sewel Convention and the will of the Senedd is fully respected when it comes to UK legislation affecting devolved responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,



Eluned Morgan