

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Legislation, Justice and
Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru,
Cardiff Bay,
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18 February 2026

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter on the negotiations between the UK and the EU following the most recent meeting of the Interministerial Group on UK-EU relations.

I appreciate the Committee's recognition of the sensitivities involved in these ongoing negotiations and the limitations around sharing confidential information.

Welsh Government Ministers and officials remain in regular contact with our counterparts in UK Government to ensure that Welsh interests are represented during negotiations. Ministerial discussions take place through regular Inter-Ministerial Group meetings, including the EFRA IMG (most recently held on 5 February), Trade IMG (held on 8 January), and IMG UK-EU Relations (held on 21 January). In addition, the Deputy First Minister has participated in two quadrilateral meetings with Dame Angela Eagle DBE MP, Minister of State for Food Security and Rural Affairs, to discuss the ongoing Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures negotiations. A further quadrilateral meeting will take place in March. Officials are also meeting regularly with UK Government officials, including with Cabinet Office officials who are coordinating the EU reset work, and with officials from the departments leading on each agreement i.e. DEFRA, DESNZ and DfE.

To ensure that the views and expertise of Welsh stakeholders are reflected in our approach, the Trade Policy Advisory Group provides expert advice to Ministers and senior officials on matters of trade policy including EU reset negotiations. This group draws on perspectives from across Wales' business community, civil society and trade unions, helping to shape the Welsh Government's position. The group last met in November 2025 and is scheduled to meet again in March 2026.

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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.

I am pleased to note the progress that UK Government has made on the EU reset negotiations, including the agreement for the UK to rejoin the ERASMUS+ programme from 2027. The UK Government and EU have signalled their intention to conclude negotiations on SPS, Emissions Trading Scheme and Youth Mobility by the next UK-EU summit. There is no confirmed date for the summit, however we anticipate that it will take place in the first half of 2026.

Welsh Government Ministers and officials have repeatedly made UK Government Ministers and officials aware of the upcoming elections and the challenges that dissolution of the Senedd will pose the negotiations, and implementation, of the EU reset agreements.

We do not yet have a confirmed timeline for the introduction of the EU Partnership Bill. We are working on the basis that the UK Government intends for the Bill to complete its passage by the end of 2026. At present, we have not seen a draft of the Bill and discussions on the powers in the Bill have only just begun. Similarly, we do not know whether any provisions in the Bill will require changes to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

Lastly, no formal joint mechanism has been agreed with the UK Government to monitor alignment or divergence with the EU. However, effort has been focused on working closely with the UK government to establish existing and alignment and divergence in the areas in scope of the current negotiations. This work is ongoing but is close to completion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

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