

Huw Irranca-Davies

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Julie James MS

Counsel General and Minister for Delivery

3 March 2026

Dear Huw and Julie,

Outstanding issues from 2 March meeting

Thank you for attending yesterday's evidence session.

As discussed, here are the questions that we didn't have the opportunity to ask during the session.

UK Internal Market Act and Common Frameworks

1. What is the Welsh Government's current assessment of the impact of the UK Internal Market Act's market access principles on the effectiveness of Welsh law?
2. To what extent will Common Frameworks be utilised as structures to discuss alignment and divergence with the EU should the UK reach an agreement with the EU to dynamically align in certain sectors in future?
3. How is the Welsh Government working to improve the transparency of discussions within Common Frameworks for the Senedd, stakeholders and citizens?

Justice

4. How is the Welsh Government engaging with the UK Government on the devolution of policing, the UK Government's proposed reforms to police forces and the abolition of Police and Crime Commissioners, amongst other issues?

5. Lord Timpson, the Prisons Minister, told the Welsh Affairs Committee that a decision on the proposed Women's Residential Centre in Swansea was expected in January. Can you confirm if a decision has been made and when the outcome will be announced?
6. The Lady Chief Justice told us in February that there is an "overwhelming operational case" for a new civil justice centre in Cardiff. What discussions have you had with the UK Government to ensure that work urgently progresses on the centre?
7. Does the Welsh Government still intend to publish a draft tribunals bill before the end of this term? If not please can you explain why this has not been possible?

Sewel Convention

8. Can you provide an update on discussions relating to the memorandum of understanding on the Sewel Convention? When do you expect the Memorandum of Understanding to be finalised and published?
9. As the Sewel Convention is an inter-parliamentary convention, what role will the legislatures of the UK have in the Memorandum of Understanding?
10. The Welsh Government has been calling for the Sewel Convention to be placed on a "formalised statutory footing." What would putting the Convention on a statutory footing look like? Has the UK Government been receptive to these suggestions?
11. Based on your experiences in the Sixth Senedd, why does the Welsh Government believe placing the Convention on a statutory footing is necessary?

In order to assist in our timely scrutiny of this matter, we would appreciate receiving a response by 13 March 2026.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hedges
Chair