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David Rees AM
Chair
External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Ref: 340SUB 17

30th July 2017

Dear Mr Rees,

Thank you for your letter of 19 July regarding the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill which was introduced into the House of Commons on 13 July.

The Government is committed to ensuring that withdrawal from the EU is a successful and orderly process for Wales and for the whole of the UK. The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill is an essential Bill in delivering this. The Government discussed the Repeal Bill with the Welsh Government before the Bill's introduction and shared a copy of it two weeks in advance. I expect the introduction of the Bill to trigger an intensification of these discussions.

Officials from the UK Government and the Welsh Government have discussed the content of the Welsh Government's White Paper *Securing Wales' Future*. It is clear from those discussions that the UK Government and the Welsh Government share many common outcomes from EU exit. We agree on the need for the freest possible trade access to the EU, on the need to ensure continuity at the point at which the UK leaves the EU, and on the need for UK-wide or GB-wide frameworks in certain areas. These discussions have influenced the drafting of the Bill which supports each of these outcomes.

I am keen to work with the National Assembly for Wales including the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee to assist with consideration and scrutiny of the Bill. I would like to reiterate my offer to give evidence to your Committee as we take

this work forward. We would like all parts of the UK to come together in support of the legislation, which is crucial to delivering the referendum outcome

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alun', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru