

Mick Antoniw MS
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

28 January 2021

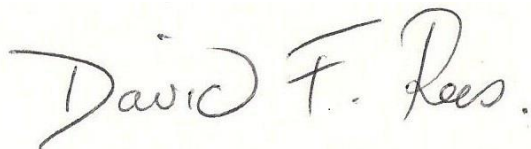
Dear Mick

Common Frameworks

As you are aware, the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee has been monitoring the common frameworks programme of work, and as such I wrote to the Counsel General and Minister for European Transition on 27 January 2021 to seek clarification on the status of the frameworks that relate to Wales.

This might be of interest to your Committee, and I enclose a copy of the correspondence for your information.

Yours sincerely,



David Rees MS
Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Jeremy Miles MS
Counsel General and Minister for European Transition
Welsh Government

27 January 2021

Dear Jeremy,

Common Frameworks

The External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee (“the Committee”) has been monitoring the common frameworks programme of work and has also engaged in the scrutiny of several framework areas.

I am writing to seek clarification on the status of the frameworks that relate to Wales.

Our understanding is that each of the framework areas applicable to Wales has a provisional Framework Outline Agreement (“provisional Framework”) in place, with the exception of the frameworks relating to: mutual recognition of professional qualifications; services; fertiliser; and organics. **Can you confirm whether this interpretation is correct, please?**

For a provisional Framework to be operable, we had understood that it would require the agreement of each government of the four nations through the JMC EN. **Can you please clarify the status of each framework area i.e. whether a provisional Framework has been agreed by each of the four governments at JMC EN and, if not, what the status of these framework areas is. For example, are they considered operable between Scotland, Wales and England, but not Northern Ireland in some cases?**

If provisional Frameworks exist, we believe it imperative that they be published as soon as possible. Whilst we have an interest in terms of scrutinising these agreements, our principal concern is one of transparency. It is important that provisional Frameworks (and associated documents such as concordats) are made available to stakeholders and the public so that they can begin to understand how these areas of policy are to function in the UK now that we have left the transition period has ended. **We ask that you publish all provisional Frameworks that are**



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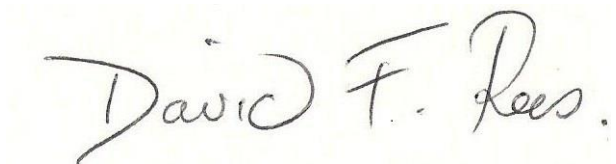
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currently operable as soon as possible, even if they are not yet deemed ready for full formal scrutiny. As we have reported previously, we believe that they should be laid before the Senedd alongside any other step to place them in the public domain.

At the heart of the frameworks programme is a commitment from the four governments to not diverge from retained EU law in a framework area until a framework agreement is finally agreed. **Can you please confirm that this commitment still holds from the Welsh Government's perspective and, in so far as you understand it, this commitment is held by the governments of the other UK nations?**

Thank you for considering these questions. I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and 'R'.

David Rees MS

Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

