

Rebecca Evans MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

20 November 2024

Dear Rebecca,

Legislative Consent: Product Regulation and Metrology Bill

The Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee considered the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill ("the Bill") at its meetings on 16 October and 14 November. Following your appearance at the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee on 4 November, the Committee has agreed to seek more information on several important matters as it prepares its report.

I would therefore be grateful if you could respond to the points below:

- Does the Welsh Government have any concerns relating to the Bill's development, in light of its concerns relating to the former UK Government's regulatory proposals?
- What analysis has the Welsh Government carried out to enable you to come to the view that the Bill "should be positive for businesses", and could this analysis be shared with the Committee?¹
- Could you set out what steps the Welsh Government has taken to obtain the views of businesses, producers, and manufacturers on the Bill?

¹ Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, 4 November 2024, Record of Proceedings, paragraph 83



- Has the Welsh Government sought the views of its Trade Advisory Group members and if so, what was their view?
- Could you set out which EU regulations the Bill might extend to? Are there any that the Welsh Government believes would be particularly beneficial to Welsh exporters? Could you also confirm what conversations have been held with the UK Government on these matters?
- Should the Bill result in UK recognition of EU standards, could you set out how this might interact with other post-Brexit trade agreements? For example, could Welsh business be undercut by Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) imports producing to a lower standard than is required for the EU market?
- Could the Bill be used to safeguard the UK's domestic industries from import surges of goods made to a lower standard that cannot enter the EU market (i.e. dumping)?
- Could the Bill have differentiated effects across Welsh industries, and if so, how?

I would be grateful to receive your reply no later than 9 December 2024, so that we may take it into consideration when drafting our report.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Kind regards,



Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

CC: Mike Hedges MS, Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee