

**Mark Drakeford AM/AC**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

David Rees AM  
Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff  
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27 March 2017

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 28 February regarding the scrutiny of JMC(EN) meetings. I welcome the constructive scrutiny from the Committee to date and I would be open to working with you to develop a mechanism to support the Committee in its scrutiny role through enabling greater visibility of JMC(EN) – whilst protecting the confidential nature of its discussions and papers. In some respects, this will require a step up in the effectiveness of the arrangements for JMC(EN) itself, which we are on record as calling for (as reflected in the First Minister's letter to you of 13 March on inter-governmental structures relating to the Brexit process and post-Brexit arrangements).

We expect to have further discussions in the coming weeks with the UK Government and other devolved governments around the next phase of work for JMC(EN), including its agreed role in providing oversight of negotiations with the EU. At this time, there is no agreed forward work programme for JMC(EN) to share, nor indeed definitive meeting dates, which is a real concern for us.

I would like to propose therefore that we meet after Easter, when we hope to know more in relation to future JMC(EN) meetings and inter-governmental engagement related to the UK's exit from the EU. This will enable us to discuss how we can best support the Committee in its scrutiny role, both in relation to the JMC(EN) arrangements and more broadly.

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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.