The Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM
First Minister of Wales

28 June 2018

Dear First Minister,

Equality and human rights implications of Brexit

Following my joint letter with the Chair of the Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee Chair, John Griffiths AM, I am writing to seek further clarification on a couple of the points raised.

As of last week the final text of the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill has been agreed by Parliament. You will be aware that during the passage of the Bill, the UK Government rejected the House of Lords amendments which contained provisions for the inclusion of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights in UK law. You will also be aware that the Bill was amended to provide an enhanced scrutiny procedure for statutory instruments which amend or revoke subordinate legislation made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 to implement EU law. However the enhanced procedure does not apply to instruments made by Welsh Ministers and subject to scrutiny in the Assembly. Furthermore, I note that the Welsh Government has formally begun the process of repealing the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Act as of 8 June 2018.

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In light of these developments, I would welcome an updated response from you in relation to:

- *the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights*: how the Welsh Government will ensure that Charter Rights continue to apply in Wales; and
- *Non-regression*: how the Welsh Government intends to ensure that existing rights and obligations (particularly equality and human rights standards in devolved competence) are not eroded or removed as a result of Brexit.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Equality, Communities and Local Government Committee and would welcome a response from you within the usual timescales.

Yours sincerely,
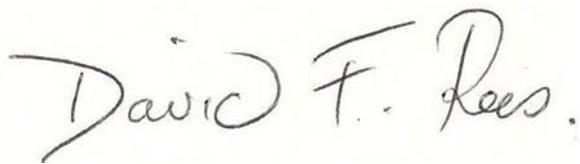
David F. Rees.

David Rees AM

Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.