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Counsel General and Brexit Minister



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

18 March 2019

Dear David,

I am writing in response to the action points from the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee's meeting on 11 March.

Following the Committee's request for the agendas of the UK Government's EU Exit and Trade (Preparedness) Cabinet Committee, I have written to David Lidington, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on this matter. I will, of course, update the Committee when I receive a response.

Committee members sought information on the economic impact of 'no deal' and also a number of figures for Wales. I attach a paper, which has been prepared by the Chief Economist following the Chancellor's Spring Statement, on the possible economic implications of a 'no deal' Brexit on Wales. Please note that we are sharing this paper with the Committee informally at this point, it will be published in the coming days.

As requested by the Committee I attach a copy of my letter to Professor Manning, Chair of the Migration Advisory Committee, in respect of the call for evidence on the shortage occupation list.

Finally, the Committee asked for information on the additional funding I mentioned for Local Authority Resilience Forums. On 11 March we announced up to £500k of funding for Local Resilience Fora (LRF) across Wales. Primarily, the funding will help LRFs enhance their limited capacity to fulfil their roles in the command, control and co-ordination arrangements for Operation Yellowhammer in Wales.

I look forward to continuing to engage with the Committee as we continue to move closer to the date of the UK's exit from the European Union.

Yours sincerely,

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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.