



Mick Antoniw AM
Chair
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales

SeneddCLA@assembly.wales

27 March 2019

Dear Mick,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 21 February 2019 about correspondence concerning the:

- **Interpretation of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill and the Establishment of Common Frameworks; and**
- **Scrutiny of regulations arising from the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018**

We have exchanged a number of letters in relation to these matters in the last few months. The UK SI programme where it intersects with devolved competency has largely come to an end now ahead of exit day.

I have previously responded on our different interpretation of a “new” policy in a number of letters and my response to your recent report on the scrutiny of regulations under the EU (Withdrawal) Act provides you with our position on this.

I have also stated our position on the process of consenting to UK Government EU Exit SIs in previous correspondence, most notably in my letter to the Presiding Officer dated 11 January 2019, of which you were a copy recipient.

Finally, I do not accept your assertion that the National Assembly is being by-passed by this consenting process. My response to your progress report sets out our interpretation of these circumstances.

I think we should agree to disagree on these issues and move on to focus on the remaining Welsh EU Exit SIs that have been laid in the National Assembly under the affirmative procedure as well as the reality of leaving the EU and working to protect the welfare of citizens, as far as possible, in the event of a no deal Brexit.

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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.

The UK's withdrawal from the European Union has created an unprecedented legislative programme across the UK and we have all been working to ensure that we will be ready for exit day. I want to thank you for your Committee's diligence in scrutinising both the Welsh and UK SI programme arising from the extraordinary circumstances surrounding Brexit. We will continue to work with the Committee on these matters as we approach and pass exit day.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'M'.

MARK DRAKEFORD