

The Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

9 May 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

Forestry policy

As you are aware, the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee has recently adopted a process for assessing the implications for Wales of UK international agreements.

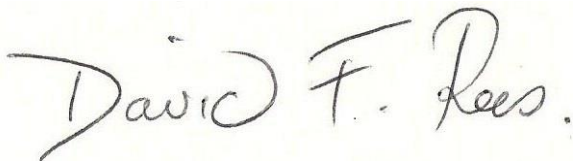
At our meeting on 29 April 2019, we considered the UK-Indonesia Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade in Timber Products (agreement CS Indonesia No.1/2019) and noted that the Explanatory Memorandum states that "[...] the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has overall responsibility for UK forestry policy".

It is the view of the Committee that forestry policy is a devolved competence. We would be grateful for clarification of your view on this, in light of the statement in the Explanatory Memorandum we refer to above.

I wrote to you in similar terms on 12 March 2019 regarding fisheries policy, and I would also be grateful for your view on that matter.

I am copying this letter to the Welsh Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, the Chair of the Assembly's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee, and the Chair of the House of Lords EU Committee.

Yours sincerely,



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.

