



Department
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Food & Rural Affairs

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David Rees

Forestry Policy

Thank you for your letter of 9 May expressing the view of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee that forestry policy is a devolved competence.

I note that this view is also specifically referring to the Explanatory Memorandum for the UK-Indonesia Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) in Timber Products (agreement CS Indonesia No.1/2019).

International forestry policy, in particular the FLEGT regime, is reserved. We recognise that domestic forestry policy is a devolved competence. The statement you refer to in the Explanatory Memorandum explains this division of responsibility using the phrase 'overall responsibility for UK forestry policy' to mean responsibility for UK's international forestry policy. I hope this clarifies any ambiguity.

With regard to your letter dated 12 March on fisheries policy, my officials will respond to you on this issue at a later date.

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.

Thank you again for your letter.

With every good wish,

Yours,

Mich

Michael Gove