



Our ref: EM/3056/19

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

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9 September 2019

Dear David,

### **Request for further information following 10 June 2019 Committee meeting**

Thank you for your letter of 24 July 2019 seeking further information following my attendance at the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee in June. You have also written to the First Minister with some further questions on International Trade which I will also be responding to in this letter.

In your letter you asked a number of questions about the concordat which is being developed with the UK Government to set out the devolved administrations role in future trade negotiations.

To date, drafting the concordat has been a collaborative process between the devolved administrations and the UK Government. This process takes place through the Senior Officials Group that was established in March 2018 to provide a regular action-focused forum between the Department for International Trade (DIT) and the DAs in relation to UK trade policy. The group meets every 6 weeks and discussions on the concordat regularly takes place during these meetings.

The concordat is currently in draft stage. Updates are made to the draft concordat through both discussions between officials at the Senior Officials Group and by sharing versions of the document itself between officials for comment. We are able provide our views and propose changes to the concordat through this process. Therefore there is no specific

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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.

documentation we have produced on the concordat that can be provided at this stage. However we have always been clear on our expectations for how we expect to be involved in relation to the development of UK Government trade policy more widely, which can be found on Pages 20-21 of *Trade Policy: Issues for Wales*.

As I have said, work on the concordat is taking place between all of the devolved administrations and officials at DIT. The Senior Officials Group referred to is chaired by Oliver Griffiths, Director Americas negotiations and Strategic engagement and Leonie Lambert, Deputy Director Constitutional Affairs and Strategy team heads the team that my officials are working with on the concordat.

It is difficult to say by when we expect to reach a final agreement on the concordat. Initially we had hoped that the agreement would be in place before the UK leaves the EU. However, the recent changes within the UK Government and the increasing focus on the risks of a no deal Brexit mean that progress on the concordat has slowed down. In the meantime, I can assure you that my officials are working with DIT to ensure that an agreement can be put in place as soon as reasonable possible.

You asked the First Minister what progress has been made in developing the concordat and how successful the Welsh Government has been in securing its objectives for involvement in future trade deals. With negotiations still ongoing I am currently unable to confirm how successful we have been overall in achieving our objectives. However there are already some examples of where the UK Government has delivered against Welsh Government asks. For example we asked the UK Government to establish a Joint Ministerial Committee on International Trade and they have announced that Joint Ministerial Forum will be set up.

You also asked what red lines the Welsh Government are developing in relation to devolved issues that it does not want to be included in future trade deals. Work is underway across the Welsh Government to ensure that there is a consistent picture of our negotiations position for future trade deals. I would be happy to update the committee on this work once it has progressed.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

**Eluned Morgan AC/AM**

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol  
Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language