



David Rees AM
Chair, EAAL Committee
SeneddEAAL@assembly.wales

12 September 2019

Dear David,

I am writing in response to your letter of 24 July 2018, relating to international obligations which bind the UK. I am sorry it has not been possible to provide an earlier reply.

Your letter asks for any assessment we have made of the reciprocal voting rights agreements which the UK has made with Luxembourg and Portugal, which as you note are similar to the earlier UK-Spain agreement. The Welsh Government supports these agreements, which are consistent with our position that after the UK leaves the European Union, EU nationals will continue to enjoy the same rights to participate in devolved Welsh elections as they do now. As with the Spanish agreement (and with any future agreements with members of EU27), no legislative change is required to fulfil this commitment, or to give effect to the obligations which the UK has agreed. The constitutional concern, to which your letter refers, is equally relevant in the Luxembourg and Portugal cases as in the earlier UK-Spain agreement.

I can also confirm that the Welsh Government is happy in principle to give an assurance that we will normally notify the Committee when we are consulted by the UK Government on a UK international agreement. However, there may be occasions when documents are shared with us in confidence by UKG, and we will need to respect any confidentiality restrictions on material which we receive. We are committed to the sharing of information with the Assembly, but I know the Committee understands that there must also be space for some discussions to remain within government. We will also need to reassess the position as we pursue the agreement we have called for from UKG about the role of the Devolved Administrations in negotiations with the EU, and international engagement more widely.

Best wishes

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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.