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David Rees AM
Chair of the External Affairs and Additional
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National Assembly for Wales
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David Rees

Thank you for your letter of 30 September on the work of Common Frameworks and the implications for this in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal on 31 October.

We remain committed to the Common Frameworks principles agreed with the Scottish and Welsh Governments at the Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations) and constructive discussions guided by these principles continue to be overseen by the JMC(EN). The publication of the Common Frameworks Update (3 July) and the most recent European Union (Withdrawal) Act Quarterly Report (17 July) demonstrates the good progress made and a commitment to develop Common Frameworks in a transparent and inclusive manner.

Common Frameworks were most recently discussed at JMC(EN) on 10 October where Ministers reaffirmed their importance as a vital part of EU Exit preparations and committed to drive this work forward in their respective administrations.

As you know, Common Frameworks are intended to serve as long term, lasting policy solutions following the UK's departure from the European Union. The need to agree Common Frameworks remains paramount in all scenarios as they will help shape the future landscape of devolution post EU Exit - the work on Common Frameworks has always been conducted without prejudice to the outcome of negotiations with the EU. Work is ongoing between the UK Government, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Civil Service to determine whether some frameworks will need to be agreed and implemented more quickly in the case of a non-negotiated exit.

So far, the UK Government has concluded that it does not need to bring forward any Section 12 regulations under the EU (Withdrawal) Act. As you will know, there is an existing political commitment that the Scottish and Welsh Governments will not create divergent policy in ways that would cut across future frameworks where it has been agreed they are necessary or where discussion continues. This was agreed on the basis of continuing joint progress and collaboration on common frameworks and that the UK Government has not sought to bring forward any section 12 regulations to date.

Further to your question on EU exit legislation, the UK Government has undertaken extensive work to identify the primary legislation essential to deliver our exit from the EU in different scenarios. The necessary EU-exit primary legislation for 31st October 2019 in a no deal scenario is already in place. This includes the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018; the Sanctions & Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018; the Nuclear Safeguards Act 2018; the Haulage Permits & Trailer Registration Act 2018; the Taxation (Cross-border Trade) Act 2018; and the Healthcare (EEA & Switzerland Arrangements) Act 2019.

The UK Government welcomed the decision of the National Assembly for Wales to agree legislative consent motions for both the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and the Healthcare (EEA and Switzerland Arrangements) Act 2019.

Although we anticipate that further primary legislation will be required after exit day, the UK Government remains committed to upholding the Sewel Convention, and its related processes and procedures, and will continue as we have always done so to seek legislative consent from the National Assembly for Wales for all provisions that legislate within devolved areas in Wales.

Thank you for your kind invitation to appear before your Committee. I note that my office is currently awaiting confirmation from the committee that I will give evidence on 24 October. I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Gove', with a checkmark above the first letter.

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster**