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Llywodraeth Cymru  
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David Rees AM  
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National Assembly for Wales,  
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David,

### **Assembly scrutiny of UK-wide common policy frameworks**

Thank you for sending me the External Affairs & Additional Legislation Committee discussion paper, UK-wide common policy frameworks: scrutiny of non-legislative framework agreements.

As mentioned in my letter of 1 March the Welsh Government recognises the crucial role parliamentary scrutiny will play in the development, implementation and oversight of future Frameworks. The process for the agreement of Common Frameworks must be inclusive and transparent. The UK Government has similarly stated that it remains fully committed to openness and scrutiny in relation to the formation of frameworks.

As you are aware, a five phase approach has been taken to the development of individual frameworks:

- Phase 1 - Principles and proof of concept established for programme of joint work
- Phase 2 - Detailed policy development
- Phase 3 - Review, stakeholder engagement and further policy development
- Phase 4 - Preparation and implementation
- Phase 5 - Post-implementation monitoring and review

The Framework areas have been broken down into four groupings (“cohorts”) based on likely completion timings. The first cohort is scheduled for delivery of the outline agreements at the end of this year with the majority of outline agreements due for delivery by the end of 2020.

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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.

The inter-administration Frameworks Project Board is currently developing an approach to scrutiny and external engagement which is consistent in timing and information across the legislatures in the UK. This has yet to be finalised but we hope to be in a position to share the approach during December. Our current expectation is that at the end of Phase 2 summary outline agreements will be sent to committees for information. This will help committees assess each framework for the degree of scrutiny that each might receive, and we would wish to make an offer of technical briefing at the same time. I anticipate the formal scrutiny of the Frameworks will take place in Phase 3, when provisional outline framework agreements, together with any related implementation products such as concordats, should be passed to relevant parliamentary committees.

I am grateful to you for sharing your proposed scrutiny process for draft Frameworks, and am keen to enable constructive and considered reflection and scrutiny. As you note, the approach needs to be proportionate and appropriate, particularly in relation to the role of the Assembly in relation to areas of executive decision-making. I would welcome the opportunity to consider this with you in more detail as the draft Frameworks emerge. As part of this, I would be interested in the work that you have done around inter-parliamentary cooperation.

I look forward to discussing your proposals when I meet the Committee again on Monday 4 November.



**Jeremy Miles AM**

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