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David Rees AM  
Chair of External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
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9 September 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 24 July 2019 which follows up on some of the matters raised during my appearance at the EAAL Committee in June. I am responding to the issues you have raised about the International Strategy and the Overseas Office network in this letter.

A response to the questions you have raised about the Concordat for International Agreements will be issued separately as you have also written to the First Minister on this matter.

### **International Strategy**

On 31 July, I published a draft strategy for public consultation. The Committee will be aware that it was my intention to publish a final strategy before summer recess; however, the continuing uncertainty surrounding Brexit, the lack of clarity on our relationship with our nearest neighbours and the protracted EU withdrawal negotiations meant that I took the decision to issue the draft for public consultation rather than as a final document to take account of the very latest Brexit position. In light of the increasing likelihood of a no deal Brexit, I believe that the decision to delay publication was the right one.

As I have previously outlined during evidence sessions, we received almost 400 responses to an informal online questionnaire that was live for a period of eight weeks earlier this year. Many of the respondents were anonymous. I also met with stakeholders from across academia, business, culture and the third sector during the development of the draft.

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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.

In line with standard practice, the responses to the formal consultation will be published on the Welsh Government website following the closure of the consultation on 23 October.

### **International Offices**

As discussed on 10 June, I have asked officials to prepare a quarterly report that gives high level performance data for our overseas offices. The first of these quarterly reports will be issued to you on 1 October.

Yours sincerely,

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