

Baroness Eluned Morgan AM  
Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language

27 September 2019

Dear Eluned,

**Request for additional information following the Committee's scrutiny session on 23 September 2019**

Thank you to you, and your officials, for appearing before the Committee on 23 September 2019. Members were grateful to hear your views on the Welsh Government's draft international strategy and work on future trade deals.

Given the constraints of time, we did not get an opportunity to cover all areas in depth, and I would therefore be grateful for your response to the following questions, at your earliest convenience.

**Draft international strategy**

In relation to the draft international strategy, I would be grateful if you could please outline how the priority relationships relate to the three core objectives of the strategy, and how the priority relationships relate to the three specific industries identified in the strategy.

**Overseas offices**

In terms of the work of the Welsh Government's office in Brussels, I would be grateful if you could please outline what impact the UK Government's decision to no longer routinely send officials to EU meetings has had on its work. Furthermore, there was confusion in relation to activities of officials at this office, can you please confirm whether or not Welsh Government officials are attending meetings of EU institutions?



## **Trade**

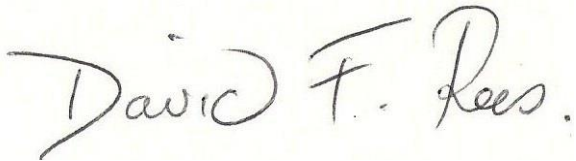
On trade, you made a commitment to share with us a copy of Ken Skates' letter to the Secretary of State for International Trade on the issue of Freeports.

In relation to the Ministerial Forum on Trade, and the Concordat, I would be grateful if you could please confirm the date on which the Forum will first meet and what steps the Welsh Government are taking to ensure that the Concordat is shared with you, as International Relations Minister, and subsequently agreed between governments, prior to the UK Government entering into trade negotiations with Third Countries.

## **Next steps**

In terms of the Committee's next steps – I wanted to give you advanced notice of the fact that we will be holding a roundtable seminar with academic experts on the draft international strategy on 21 October. We would then look to issue a short report setting out our views and conclusions shortly after that. I would hope that you would consider taking into account any such views ahead of the publication of your final strategy later this year.

Yours sincerely,



David Rees AM

Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

*Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.*

