

Mark Drakeford AM/AC
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

David Rees AM,
Chair of the EAAL Committee

25 April 2018

Dear David

External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee on 16 April

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to the Committee on 16 April. At that time I gave a verbal update on the progress made on the deep dive meetings that had taken place since January.

This series of meetings were prompted by the Joint Ministerial Committee (European Negotiations) (JMC (EN)) meeting on 12 December. It was agreed that work on Framework areas, focusing on those where legislative framework arrangements may be needed and cross-cutting issues and dependencies identified in the initial deep dives, covering matters such as trade, international obligations, governance and the UK internal market, should now proceed.

The aim of these discussions would be in line with the requirements set out in the statement of principles. The workshops would aim to clarify the nature of the intersection of EU law with devolved competence, policy perspectives in relation to these matters and to identify, in principle, where co-operation may be necessary in the future and which could form the basis for a framework. Where possible they would test the extent to which legislation may be necessary as part of a framework, what further arrangements may be required and how these could most effectively be established.

These discussions were not intended to consider the terms or content of common Frameworks at this stage. All discussions were held without prejudice to the views of Ministers or legislatures in regards to the EU (Withdrawal) Bill.

In total formal workshops covering 28 policy areas (two additional areas only relevant to Northern Ireland were also considered), took place over January and February:

- **Agricultural Support** (8-9 January)
- **Fisheries** (17-18, 23-24 January, 6-7 February)
- **State Aid** (29 January)
- **Animal Health and Welfare** (29-30 January)

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales

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.

- **Environmental Quality - Chemicals and Pesticides** (29-30 January)
- **Environmental Quality - Ozone Depleting Substances and F-Gases** (31 January)
- **Plant Health** (2 February)
- **Public Procurement** (5 February)
- **Non-CAP Agriculture** (5-6 February)
- **Food and Feed** (7-8 February)
- **Air Quality** (8 February)
- **Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications** (14 February)
- **Production of Statistics** (15 February)
- **EU Citizen's Voting Rights** (15 February)
- **Hazardous Substances Planning** (19 February)
- **Environmental Quality - Waste** (20 February)
- **Radioactive Waste Management and Shipment** (20 February)
- **Civil use of explosives** (NI only) (21 February)
- **Internal Market** (23 February)
- **Vehicle standards** (NI only) (26 February)
- **Implementation of EU emissions trading system** (26 February)
- **Trade** (15 March)
- **International obligations** (6 March)
- **Governance** (7 March, 19 April)
- **Follow up session on plant health** (9 March)
- **Elements of reciprocal healthcare** (21 March)
- **Nutrition** (9 February)
- **Domestic biodiversity and access benefits sharing** (26 February)
- **Varieties and seeds** (8 March)
- **Data infrastructure** (16 March)
- **Services Directive** (9 April)

This list does not include a number of preparation, and follow up, meetings which helped to facilitate or which naturally developed from these meetings. These workshops represent the beginning of a large body of inter-governmental work which will continue past the UK's exit from the European Union, throughout the transition period and beyond.

In each of these topic areas we are challenging the UK Government to work in an open and transparent way as the basis for a future relationship where joint policy development will be the norm and not the exception.

Best wishes,



Mark Drakeford AM/AC

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