

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister of Wales

9 November 2021

Dear Mark

UK/Switzerland: Convention on social security coordination

You will be aware that the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee is responsible for the scrutiny and monitoring of non-trade international agreements in the Sixth Senedd.

At our meeting on 1 November 2021 we considered the UK/Switzerland: Convention on social security coordination.

The agreement establishes new post-Brexit social security coordination arrangements between the UK and Switzerland in respect of certain benefits, including access to reciprocal healthcare.

During our consideration we agreed to write to you to seek the following information:

- the Welsh Government's assessment of the agreement's implications on devolved competence;
- Whether the Welsh Government agrees with the UK Government's assessment of reserved and devolved matters in the agreement;
- Whether the Welsh Government will be represented in the new UK-Swiss governance mechanisms created by the agreement, particularly in relation to attendance at the Joint Administrative Committee when devolved matters are discussed;
- What plans are in place for the Welsh Government to implement the agreement, if any, including timescales;

- Whether the Welsh Government is satisfied with the level and frequency of consultation with the UK Government during the negotiation of this agreement, as described in the Explanatory Memorandum.

We would be grateful for a response by 23 November 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies

Huw Irranca-Davies
Chair

