

Elin Jones AC
Llywydd

18 April 2018

Dear Llywydd,

Resourcing for Brexit Scrutiny

Thank you for your letter of 16 March in which you ask the Committee to set out the extent to which Brexit is likely to affect our work and whether this creates any issues around timetabling and capacity.

The Committee has agreed the following approach to matters relating to Brexit:

Horizon scanning – The Committee receives regular updates on Brexit. Regular input from stakeholders also assists the Committee in identifying areas on which it wishes to focus.

Prioritisation and focus – The Committee has agreed its forward work programme must be flexible to respond to issues relating to Brexit, including legislation. The Committee has agreed a work programme for the summer term which reflects its focus in this area.

Building relationships – The Committee will continue to build relationships with counterpart Committees in other legislatures, to share information and good practice. Members of the Committee met the Scottish Parliament's Environment,



Climate Change and Land Reform Committee and the Convenor of the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee. The Committee plans to visit counterpart Committees in Westminster during the summer term, subject to Business Committee agreement.

In terms of the likely impact of work associated with Brexit, the Committee has agreed to prioritise the following issues during the summer term:

- Environmental Governance – *we will be considering environmental governance and principles and the need for a domestic environmental protection body.*
- Proposals for UK frameworks – *we will undertake work on the common UK frameworks which may need to be established for devolved matters that are currently governed by EU law.*
- Fisheries – *we will be considering the future arrangements for the fisheries industry in Wales, with the aim of informing our consideration of future legislation on this matter.*

We will also respond to Defra’s consultation on future agricultural policy and legislation – “Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit”. Our response is framed by the recommendations made in our report, published in March 2017, ‘The future of land management in Wales’.

The Committee has agreed that these issues will take priority over other scheduled work. Other activities have been displaced but can be accommodated within our work programme with no detrimental effect on our ability to carry out our remit. We are confident that the work on Brexit can be managed within our current resources, including allotted Committee time and Member and staffing resource.

The Committee expects that a considerable amount of secondary legislation arising from Brexit, including the proposed agriculture and fisheries Bills, will fall within its remit. I would be grateful if you could provide further details of the



procedures the Business Committee will introduce to enable Assembly committees to scrutinise secondary legislation arising from Brexit.

As we carry out our policy and legislative scrutiny we will keep our colleagues on the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee and the Constitutional Affairs and Legislation Committee informed to ensure we plan our work as effectively as we can. I have copied this letter to the Chairs of both Committees for information.

If the situation changes with regards to the impact of this work on our resources I will write to notify you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light grey rectangular background.

Mike Hedges AM

Chair of Climate Change, Rural Affairs and Environment Committee

