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*Dear David,*

Thank you for your letter of 8 January, regarding your case for two amendments to Clause 29 of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill to acknowledge that the Assembly has a role in reviewing EU law during transition. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of State.

As you will be aware, the Bill has now completed its passage and become the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020. When the Committee publishes a report under section 29 of the Act, subsection (3)(c) provides that the report must confirm that the Committee has taken appropriate evidence on the effect of the legislation. This could include consulting the devolved administrations where this is appropriate.

It is not for the Government to instruct Committees on how to carry out their scrutiny work, but it is our view that there is nothing in section 29 that stops Parliament's scrutiny committees from consulting with committees of the devolved legislatures in preparation of their reports. Indeed, I would expect the committees to want to do so where it is relevant.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

**JAMES DUDDRIDGE MP  
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