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David Rees AM
Chair, External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

10 March 2020

Dear David

In my letters of 1 March and 23 October 2019, and in my 23 January response to your Committee's October paper *UK-wide common policy frameworks: scrutiny of non-legislative framework agreements*, I confirmed the Welsh Government recognises the Senedd's crucial role, alongside the other three legislatures of the UK, in the development, implementation and oversight of Common Frameworks. I committed in my response to your report to share with the Committee as soon as possible the details of the scrutiny process for the Common Frameworks proposed by the Frameworks Policy Board. Attached to this letter is a summary of the proposed parliamentary scrutiny process for the Common Frameworks (Annex 1) and a flow chart illustrating this process (Annex 2).

I have previously indicated my commitment in the development of Common Frameworks to transparency and the importance of scrutiny. I understand these issues have also been part of discussions in the regular meetings your clerk's team has been holding with our Frameworks policy team over the last few months. I believe the scrutiny process described here offers legislatures across the UK an opportunity to apply their expertise and experience to the development of the Common Frameworks. The two most advanced Frameworks – Nutrition and Hazardous Substances - are expected to be ready for scrutiny in the coming weeks and they will be a valuable test of the examination process.

Frameworks will only be finalised after they have passed through a scrutiny process, of which committee reports will be a fundamental part. The Common Frameworks will provide us with new arenas for the development of governance across the governments of the United Kingdom. I greatly value the constructive spirit in which we have been working together on the Common Frameworks programme.

As I promised in my response to the Committee's October paper, I will be writing to the Committee before the end of the month with an update on the Common Frameworks programme.

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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.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee who has recently corresponded with the First Minister about Common Frameworks in the context of scrutiny of intergovernmental agreements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JM', with a stylized, cursive flourish.

Jeremy Miles AM

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