

Ken Skates AM  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport

18 April 2018

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

### **Trade policy after Brexit – implications for Wales**

It has recently been reported in the Australian press, that the UK Government will begin trade talks with the Australian government this week. In particular, it is reported that trade in agricultural goods will feature prominently in the discussions of any future free trade deal.

As a Committee, we have previously highlighted the importance of ensuring that Welsh interests are adequately safeguarded in any discussions on future international trade deals. During our oral evidence session with you on the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Trade Bill you emphasised the importance of consultation between the UK and the devolved administrations on the issue of international trade. This position is also emphasised in the Welsh Government's trade policy paper which calls for the creation of a Joint Ministerial Committee on International Trade.

In light of the news that UK Government officials will shortly commence trade talks in Canberra, I would be grateful if you could provide us with information on:

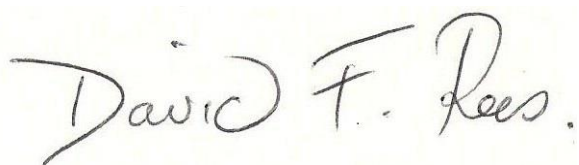
- whether the Welsh Government has been consulted by the Department for International Trade (either at official or at ministerial level) prior to the commencement of trade talks in Australia;



- whether Welsh Government officials will form part of the delegation that will be sent to Australia as part of the UK's negotiating team;
- whether you raised the issue of the UK's future trading relationship with counterparts during your recent visit to Australia and how developments are being viewed there;
- what steps the Welsh Government will be taking to ensure that Welsh interests, including those of the Welsh agriculture sector, are protected as part of any discussions on future trade deals.

I would be grateful for a response to the above at your earliest convenience and no later than 30 May 2018. I am copying this letter to the Chairs of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee and the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'R'.

David Rees AM, Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

