



David Rees, AM  
Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[SeneddEAAL@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddEAAL@assembly.wales)

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Dear David

I am writing in response to your letter of 9 November following the Committee session on 5 November.

As I set out to Committee, while we have only seen a limited number of clauses in the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill, I fully expect the Bill will cover areas within the devolved competence of the Welsh Government and National Assembly for Wales, and as such will require the legislative consent of the National Assembly.

Alongside the Withdrawal Agreement the political declaration sets out the outcome of the current negotiations on the terms of the UK's future relationship with the EU27. While the political declaration is not in the form of legal text it covers a number of matters that are within our devolved competence. The political declaration also covers critically important matters including our future economic relationship with our largest trading partner which will have important implications for the people of Wales. Given this, it is our firm intention to also hold a vote on the wider agreement reached with the EU27. It is also my intention for this vote in the National Assembly to be held before the "meaningful" vote in the House of Commons.

While it appears a deal has been reached on the Withdrawal Agreement, this will have to be agreed with the EU27 at a forthcoming meeting of the European Council. Given the uncertainty that remains, at this stage it is not possible to give precise details regarding the timings of debates in the National Assembly. The Welsh Government will continue to update the National Assembly on progress in the negotiations and the timings and nature of the debates that will follow.

Yours sincerely

**CARWYN JONES**

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru](mailto:YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru) • [ps.firstminister@gov.wales](mailto:ps.firstminister@gov.wales)

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.