



Department  
for Exiting the  
European Union

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14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Thank you for your letters of 7 and 8 January and for advance sight of your proposed amendments to the Bill. I very much appreciated the opportunity to meet you on 9 January to discuss these and other matters, and also the Welsh Government's continued close cooperation with the UK Government in so many ways.

Despite our disagreement on elements of the Bill, I know we both recognise the enduring power and value of our historic partnership, and also the significant role played by the legislative consent process – a principle to which the UK Government remains committed. Over the years, this has helped ensure that UK-wide legislation both reflects the valid concerns of the Welsh Government and respects the devolution settlement.

The Sewel Convention holds that the UK Government should not normally press ahead with legislation without legislative consent motions from devolved administrations but the circumstances of our departure from the European Union are specific, singular and exceptional. That does not, however, mean the UK Government will not continue to work to address your concerns.

Through the Joint Ministerial Committee and the Concordat on International Relations we have the opportunity to discuss reserved issues that have an impact on devolved matters. As ever, my colleagues and I remain at your disposal to discuss, in these long-established fora, issues relating to our imminent exit from the EU and your involvement with our discussions on our future relationship with the EU.

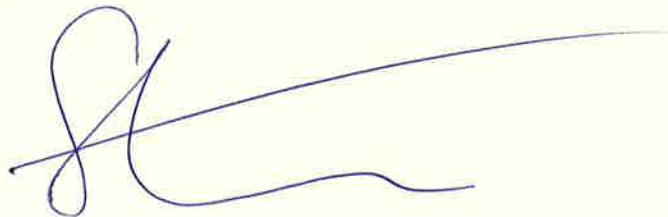
I am confident that all the issues you raise will be debated appropriately in the UK Parliament as the Bill completes its passage. And on one particular point – the insertion of a power to transfer the functions of the Independent Monitoring Authority (IMA) (which, as you know, will be in Swansea) to another public body – I confirm that we will stand by commitments we have made to you about the devolved administrations' role in appointments to the IMA, should its functions be transferred to another body.

We have deliberately ensured that the power in the Bill can be used to amend the constitution of the public body to which the IMA's functions are transferred. In the event the power is ever used, the transferee's institutional design can be amended in line with that of the IMA. This includes ensuring that the important role of the devolved administrations in relation to appointments to the IMA can be replicated.

Again, I hope that you will revise your recommendation and support this Bill. It allows us to respect the result of the referendum, in which the people of Wales voted to leave the EU, to move on to focus on other priorities and at the same time bring the country together.

I am copying this letter to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Secretary of State for Wales, and the Leader of the House of Lords.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'S' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small wave.

**RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION**