



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA
First Minister

Our reference: MC2020/09354

Michelle O'Neill MLA
Deputy First Minister

15 July 2020

Dear Arlene and Michelle,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding UK Common Frameworks. I welcome the Executive Committee's endorsement of the principles for Common Frameworks as agreed at JMC(EN) in October 2017. I look forward to continuing the fruitful collaboration between the UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive, along with the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales.

As you indicate in your letter, the principles for Common Frameworks will ensure that frameworks respect the devolution settlements and provide a foundation for continuing cooperation between the UK Government and devolved administrations. The development of frameworks will also play a key role in ensuring the functioning of the UK internal market. The UK Government will engage further on proposals for the UK internal market in the coming days in our White Paper, and we are grateful for the productive discussions that have taken place on this to date.

Overall, we want to see more collaboration and joint working between the UK Government and the devolved administrations, and will be restarting our work on the review of intergovernmental relations which we hope to discuss with you and your officials over the summer.

I look forward to further constructive discussions with you soon, including on the interaction between Common Frameworks and the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Gove".

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**