



**Elin Jones AC, Llywydd**

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

**Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer**

National Assembly for Wales

The Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP  
Secretary of State for Wales  
Gwydyr House  
London  
SW1A 2NP

Your ref:  
Our ref: PO221/EJ/RT

5 October 2017

Dear Secretary of State

### **EU Withdrawal Bill: Expert Implementation Panel for Wales**

I write further to my letter dated 28 July in response to your invitation to nominate an Assembly official as an observer to your Expert Panel. I explained that I had wanted to consult fully with the National Assembly Committees who are engaged with consulting stakeholders on the impact of the EU (Withdrawal) Bill.

The requirement for Assembly consent will necessitate the Assembly and its committees carrying out detailed scrutiny of the EU Withdrawal Bill and other Brexit legislation.

As you know, I have already expressed my view on the part of the Assembly that whatever informal engagement is put in place, this needs to complement, rather than replace, formal consultation. The Assembly expects full engagement with the Assembly's committees from all relevant UK Government departments, which should respond in a timely fashion to requests for information, proactively provide evidence on the legislative programme, and respect and respond to representations made to them by Assembly committees in areas within the Assembly's competence.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA

Llywydd@cynulliad.cymru

www.cynulliad.cymru

0300 200 7403

**National Assembly for Wales**

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA

Llywydd@assembly.wales

www.assembly.wales

0300 200 7403



**Elin Jones AC, Llywydd**

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

**Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer**

National Assembly for Wales

The Assembly committees are undertaking extensive engagement work with stakeholders in relation to Brexit to explore its implications and what it means for Wales' future and the Assembly's devolved powers. Having consulted with committees, I have therefore concluded that it is neither necessary nor appropriate for National Assembly officials to observe this stakeholder panel. Should you wish to know more about our stakeholder engagement work, I would be happy to provide further information.

Finally, the Assembly would be able to engage more effectively if we had a shared understanding of the UK Government's plans for consulting on and developing Brexit-related legislation and I ask that the UK Government give this further consideration.

Yours sincerely

Elin Jones AM  
Llywydd

cc

Huw Irranca-Davies AM, Chair, Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee  
David Rees AM, Chair, External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee