



Cabinet Office

Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Minister for the Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Web www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Our Ref: CDL/1659

Mark Drakeford AM
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

24 April 2018

Dear Mark

EU (WITHDRAWAL) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 24 April and for your telephone call earlier today. I am grateful for the work that you and your officials have put into our current proposals.

I am extremely pleased that we have been able to work together to develop a proposal on clause 11 that provides reassurance on the points you have raised, whilst also continuing to provide legal certainty across the UK. I am grateful to you for confirmation that you will put forward a recommendation of legislative consent for the EU (Withdrawal) Bill to the National Assembly for Wales.

I agree with you that our joint working over recent months has shown how successful our collaboration can be and the underlying strength of our intergovernmental relations. We are committed to continuing to work together on designing and implementing new frameworks that will replace the existing EU arrangements in place across the UK.

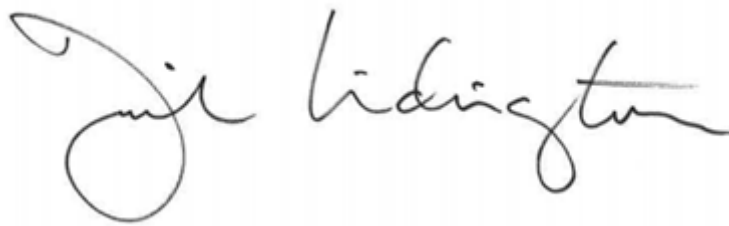
It is important that our governments have found a way forward that prioritises legal certainty for people and businesses across the UK. As was made clear in the Lords Committee debates on the EU (Withdrawal) Bill, we need to be able to protect the UK internal market as we leave the EU and give certainty that that will happen even where agreement between governments cannot be reached. That is why working with you we have developed a model which emphasises early, joint collaborative working and favours agreement with the devolved legislatures, while having a clear and transparent process when agreement cannot be reached. It is right that the UK Parliament provides that certainty.

We have come to an agreement which provides maximum reassurance and certainty and will be delivered through amendments to clause 11 and through the draft intergovernmental agreement that sits alongside the legislation. I hope that the Scottish Government will continue

to work with us so that we can maintain the prospects for its agreement both on the Bill and the inter-governmental agreement.

As part of our agreement, we have also agreed that steps will be initiated to secure the repeal of the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill before the EU (Withdrawal) Bill receives Royal Assent so that our statute book is clear. We have each also agreed to ask the Attorney General and the Counsel General to make or support applications to the Supreme Court to withdraw the Reference made in respect of that Bill.

I am copying this letter to the the First Minister of Wales, First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Michael Russell MSP.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Lidington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP