

Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
Minister of State for Trade and Investment
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

16 May 2018

Dear Minister,

Implications of future trade policy for Wales

As a Committee, we are keen to ensure that Wales and the interests of the Welsh people are adequately safeguarded during the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and beyond. We have previously welcomed your government's commitment to ensuring that the devolved administrations and legislatures are given opportunities to **“engage with and contribute to our trade policy”**. Furthermore, I was grateful to begin a dialogue with you to explore some of these issues in more detail during our meeting in January of this year.

It is a matter of concern to us, however, that we recently learned in correspondence with the Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Transport, and in oral evidence with the First Minister, that the Welsh Government has not been involved either at ministerial or official level in any of the UK Government's Trade Working Groups. I attach the specific correspondence referred to as an Annex to this letter.

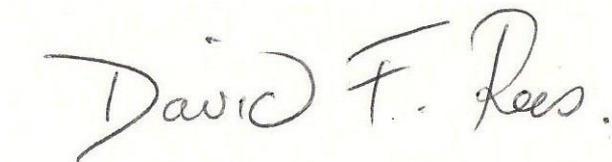
In light of this, and in recognition of the keen interest that we have as a Committee in the future direction of trade policy in the UK, I would like to invite you to a meeting of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee during the remainder of the summer term.



I would be grateful if you could please indicate whether or not you are content to attend by Wednesday 13 June 2018.

In the meantime, I would be grateful if could provide us with a list of the Trade Working Groups that have been established and whether you have sought the involvement of the Welsh Government in any of them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'R'.

David Rees AM

Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

