

Mark Drakeford AM/AC  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

David Rees AM  
Chair,  
External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee.

23 May 2018

Dear Chair,

Tomorrow I will be issuing a written statement to members regarding the new Ministerial Forum on the future relationship between the UK and the EU.

Building on initial discussions at the Joint Ministerial Committee Europe (JMC - EU Negotiations), the new forum will give the devolved administrations an opportunity to contribute to the development of a UK negotiating position.

Ministers from the Welsh Government will attend alongside those from the Scottish Government and officials from the Northern Ireland civil service and will feed into the JMC (EN). The First Minister has asked Rebecca Evans, Minister for Housing and Regeneration, to act as the lead Minister for the new Ministerial Forum, working with myself as the established Welsh Government representative on JMC (EN).

The first meeting of the forum will take place tomorrow 24 May in Edinburgh with the Minister for Housing and Regeneration attending and the Welsh Government will keep members updated on the development of the forum and the progress of its work.

We expect the forum to meet on a regular basis. Given the fast-moving nature of the issues with which the forum will be dealing with and the confidential nature of the talks, it may be beneficial for my officials to work with your committee clerk on the best mechanism to keep you and members of the committee updated while maintaining the integrity of the discussions.

A Welsh version of this letter will follow shortly.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Mark Drakeford AM/AC**

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