

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

**Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Pontio Ewropeaidd
Counsel General and Minister for European Transition**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/CG/3454/20

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Fowler
Lord Speaker
House of Lords
SW1A 2PW
lordspeaker@parliament.uk

15 October 2020

Dear Lord Speaker

UNITED KINGDOM INTERNAL MARKET BILL

The Welsh Government is deeply concerned about the UK Internal Market Bill which will receive its second reading next week.

The Bill represents an unprecedented attack on the devolution settlement in Wales, and, we believe, in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It would undermine the Senedd's right to regulate in devolved areas of competence; give wholly new powers to UK Ministers to spend public funds on devolved issues in Wales, without any undertaking to work with the devolved Government in doing so; and would explicitly amend the Government of Wales Act to enable the government to impose a new 'state aid' regime without our agreement.

It would undermine the hard work which has been underway for more than three years on the part of all four Governments to develop the Common Frameworks programme, which aims to simultaneously ensure the smooth functioning of the UK Internal Market while protecting the established constitutional rights of the devolved legislatures and governments.

We have therefore developed a set of model amendments which I have pleasure in enclosing with this letter. We would urge members of the House to support these in order to protect the rights of the devolved institutions.

Although the amendments have been developed so as to have equal validity across all three of the devolved nations, I should stress that these are proposals from the Welsh Government. The Scottish Government has indicated that it is broadly supportive of these amendments while remaining resolutely opposed to the Bill in principle on the basis that it weakens devolution and breaches international law.

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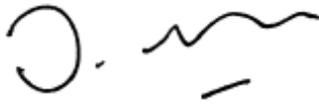
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House of Lords, Baroness Evans of Bowes Park; the Shadow Leader of the House of Lords, Baroness Smith of Basildon, the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Lord Newby and the Convenor of the Cross-Bench peers, Lord Judge; as well as to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland and Michael Russell, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs in the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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