



Nicola Sturgeon  
First Minister of Scotland  
Scottish Government  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

15<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Nicola,

You will recall that in January I published, together with Plaid Cymru, the Welsh Government's White Paper "Securing Wales' Future" which outlined our priorities for Wales as the UK prepares to leave the European Union (EU). I made clear then that this marked the beginning of a dialogue, and signalled my intention to publish a series of further policy documents to contribute to the debate both here in Wales and the United Kingdom (UK).

Today I have published the first of those policy documents, "Brexit and Devolution" which is enclosed.

The UK which leaves the EU is not the same as the one that entered it nearly 50 years ago and we will need to find new mechanisms for working which reflect and respect devolution. I have been consistent in emphasising that powers already devolved to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland must remain devolved after EU exit and that any other proposition would be wholly unacceptable. The people of Wales have voted for our powers and this must be respected.

It is clear to me that the existing inter-governmental machinery within the UK will not be fit-for-purpose after we have departed the EU. There will be a need to find a new way of working, particularly in relation to policy areas where divergence which might threaten the coherence of the UK internal market has hitherto been constrained by the EU regulatory framework. Where UK-wide frameworks may be needed in future, it is essential that we have robust mechanisms for the UK Government and the devolved administrations to discuss and agree what frameworks are necessary and then to negotiate and agree the content of these frameworks. Our proposals for a new UK Council of Ministers are intended to provide such a mechanism.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru](mailto:YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru) • [ps.firstminister@gov.wales](mailto:ps.firstminister@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.

We have made clear that we will not accept unilateral actions by the UK Government to impose frameworks on areas of devolved competence or to constrain devolved powers in any way: should the Great Repeal Bill, or any similar legislation seek to do so, we will vigorously oppose it.

We put forward our proposals as contribution to a constructive and inclusive debate on the future of the UK. I hope that within the policy document you will see some common ground; and I look forward to taking forward these discussions with you in the coming weeks.

I am copying this letter to Michael Russell MSP, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carwyn Jones', written in a cursive style.

**CARWYN JONES**