

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Pontio Ewropeaidd
Counsel General and Minister for European Transition



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

23 July 2020

Dear Michael,

I am writing to you to set out some further detail on the Welsh Government's priorities for civil judicial cooperation as part of the UK/EU future relationship negotiations.

While matters relating to justice are currently generally reserved, the clear evidence-base and case for change put forward by the Commission on Justice in Wales are matters for discussion between our governments. International civil judicial co-operation is, of course, as important for businesses, individuals and the wider public sector in Wales as it is for their equivalents in the UK's other countries. We support the UK's approach of building on the Hague conference principles, and encouraging the widest level of co-operation across courts. This is especially true for cases involving children; we strongly support an approach to negotiations that prioritises co-operation in family law matters.

There will inevitably be an overlap with criminal judicial cooperation, given that some criminal cases will give rise to civil claims. We urge an approach in negotiations which facilitates co-ordination between court systems and minimises administrative challenges, particularly for victims of crime. I have written separately to you about the negotiations on law enforcement and judicial co-operation.

Such co-operation cannot be forged in isolation from other issues, especially arrangements for sharing data. In this context I would stress the urgency of securing data adequacy agreements on the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Law Enforcement Directive by December, and reiterate the importance of continuing to engage with the Welsh Government in this work.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales, and the Paymaster General; to the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs in the Scottish Government; and to the First Minister and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Miles'.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
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