

## 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

8 June 2020

Dear Michael,

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

We have been clear that the Welsh Government would have set a different approach to the negotiations than the one set out by the UK Government. Despite this we want to remain constructive in the negotiations and continue to seek a formal role inputting Welsh priorities into an agreed UK position. In the absence of the UK Government committing to a meaningful role for the Devolved Governments in the negotiations, I am setting out further detail on our negotiating priorities.

We are supportive of the position the UK has taken in *The Future Relationship with the EU* in regards to fisheries, and recognise it is built upon significant discussion between officials. However, the current crisis caused by the global pandemic has brought home how reliant the Welsh industry is on European export markets. As you know, the Welsh fishing industry primarily targets shellfish with upwards of 80% exported and the Welsh Government has had to step in to provide specific support as the industry's main markets on the continent have disappeared. The Welsh Government has consistently highlighted the importance of friction free access to EU markets. This is essential for key fisheries sectors in Wales.

Control of access to waters and a shift to zonal attachment is important for our fishing industry and we wish to see any additional quota used to redress historic imbalances. However, we also want to see a flexible and pragmatic approach taken in the negotiations in order to protect market access for our fisheries industry. Demand in domestic markets for the species captured by the Welsh fleet is not sufficient to make up the shortfall.

We agree with the UK's view that fisheries would be best addressed through a standalone agreement. It will be important that in annual negotiations, the Welsh Government is involved to reflect the devolved responsibilities in Wales.

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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.

Finally, we support maintaining high levels of sustainability and environmental protection in fisheries, which is in line with the obligations of the Welsh Ministers under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, and which both the EU and the UK have pledged to maintain.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Miles', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

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