



Eich cyf/Your ref: WQ97025

Rhys ab Owen MS
Rhys.abOwen@senedd.wales

7 August 2025

Dear Rhys,

Thank you for WQ97025 in which you asked: *Does the Welsh Government believe that the new methods of creating exclusions from the UK Internal Markets Act 2020 mean that the Senedd now must seek approval from the other devolved governments, as well as the UK Government, to legislate in areas that were previously devolved to Wales?*

The Welsh Government has been consistent in its opposition to the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 ("the Act"). This was introduced by the previous UK government and is an unwarranted attack on the devolution settlement.

The Senedd technically retains the ability to legislate in devolved areas without the need for approval from the UK Government or any of the devolved governments. However, where legislation interacts with the Act it can restrict the ability of the Senedd and the Welsh Ministers to ensure those laws are coherent and enforceable.

In such instances an exclusion from the Act may be required. We have long-held concerns with the exclusion process, for which the power to make regulations under sections 10 and 18 is only conferred on the Secretary of State. This remains the case.

The new approach to exclusions seeks to rely more on Common Frameworks to agree divergence in approaches which could impact the UK internal market. Only the Secretary of State can agree an exclusion from the Act, and to do so approval is not required from the devolved governments. However, the UK Government has committed to implement agreements reached by all four parties in Common Frameworks, and to more transparent processes for seeking and securing exclusions.

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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.

These changes are an important first step in addressing our issues with the Act.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Julie" and the last name "James" clearly distinguishable.

Julie James AS/MS

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Cyflawni
Counsel General and Minister for Delivery