



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Minister for Europe
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

26 January 2016

David Melding AM
Chair
National Assembly for Wales
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff, CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Melding,

Thank you for your letter of 5 January inviting me to give evidence to your Committee on the afternoon of either Monday 29 February or Monday 7 March in Cardiff. I acknowledge and welcome the strong interest in this issue in the National Assembly for Wales and the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee.

I regret that I am unable to attend on either date, however, please be assured that we are considering the interests of all of the UK. There are many opportunities for engagement between the UK and Welsh Government and Assembly on this issue, namely:

My recent meetings and telephone calls with Jane Hutt AM; the Foreign Secretary's meeting with the First Minister on 16 December; and at the Joint Ministerial Committee's Europe meetings where this issue is on the agenda.

This issue is also under scrutiny by the UK Parliament, which includes MPs from Wales; two Welsh MPs are members of the European Scrutiny Committee.

We feel that these opportunities provide the Committee with the information it needs at this time.

RT HON DAVID LIDINGTON MP