Dear Graeme,

DEFRA AND DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS MINISTERIAL MEETING

I can now update the Committee on the key points from the Defra and Devolved Administrations Ministerial meeting held in London on 25 September 2017.

The meeting was held in London and attendees included: Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (in the chair), Lord Duncan (Scotland Office), Lesley Griffiths (Welsh Government), Guto Bebb (Wales Office) and Chloe Smith (Northern Ireland Office). The Northern Ireland Executive was represented by Norman Fulton (Deputy Secretary).

There was discussion on the process for these meetings, and it was agreed that there should be ten Ministerial meetings a year, the agenda would be kept flexible with each administration having the opportunity to propose at least one item for the agenda, agendas would be agreed two weeks in advance and papers circulated a week in advance.

There was also some limited discussion on the Prime Minister's speech in Florence on 22 September and the reference to a proposed transition period; on funding guarantees in regard to CAP Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 support up to 2022; and the UK Government’s 25 year environment plan. All of the devolved administrations pressed the UK Government to share more information on these important topics as soon as possible.
It was agreed that there should be two further Ministerial meetings held before the end of the year and these will take place on 6 November in London and 14 December in Cardiff. I apologise for the oversight on this occasion in not making you aware of the meeting on 25 September.

Yours sincerely,

FERGUS EWING