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Baroness Andrews
Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee
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To Baroness Andrews,

Thank you for your letter of 30 April 2021 noting that reference to the Common Frameworks programme did not feature in my letter to Lord Dunlop outlining the Government's response to his review. I would like to first thank you for the helpful and considered report which your Committee published on 31 March. The Government response to that report will be shared with your Committee shortly. While Common Frameworks did not feature explicitly in the response to Lord Dunlop's review, I observed that we had been working with the devolved administrations to establish new structures that maintain regular, meaningful and effective cooperation between us. As you pointed out in your recent report, Common Frameworks are innovative mechanisms for developing UK-wide policy by collaboration and consensus between the UK Government and the devolved administrations, and they take account of the interests of each part of the UK.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the close relationship between Common Frameworks and the Government's broader approach to intergovernmental relations as set out in the most recent progress update published in March 2021 on the joint review of intergovernmental relations (IGR Review). Indeed, one of the original workstreams of the IGR Review was the governance of Common Frameworks, and this heavily informed the development of much of the governance machinery within the Common Frameworks, which you and your Committee continue to scrutinise.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Eleventh *EU (Withdrawal) Act and Common Frameworks Report* which was published on 20 May and where the close relationship between Common Frameworks and the IGR Review is noted. That report notes that the UK Government published an update on the IGR Review, alongside the Dunlop Review, and observes that revised intergovernmental relations structures agreed through the review will likely form much of the context in which Common Frameworks will operate, as well as providing part of the dispute resolution process within Common Frameworks.

I look forward to the continued positive working between the Cabinet Office and your Committee in the future.

With every good wish,

Yrs. Michael

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**