

Minutes and papers of a meeting of the Cabinet.

Present:

- Rt. Hon. Mark Drakeford AM, First Minister (Chair)
 - Rebecca Evans AM
 - Vaughan Gething AM
 - Lesley Griffiths AM
 - Julie James AM
 - Eluned Morgan AM
 - Ken Skates AM
 - Kirsty Williams AM
 - Jeremy Miles AM (from item 4)
 - Jane Hutt AM
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- Hannah Blythyn AM
 - Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM
 - Julie Morgan AM
 - Lee Waters AM
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- Shan Morgan, Permanent Secretary
 - Des Clifford, Director General Office of the First Minister
 - Carys Evans, Principal Private Secretary, First Minister
 - Peter Greening, Head of Cabinet Division
 - Toby Mason, Head of Strategic Communications
 - Jo Salway, Deputy Director Cabinet Office
 - Jane Runeckles, Special Adviser

- David Davies, Special Adviser
- Madeleine Brindley, Special Adviser
- Daniel Butler, Special Adviser
- Paul Griffiths, Special Adviser
- Clare Jenkins, Special Adviser
- Andrew Johnson, Special Adviser
- Gareth Williams, Special Adviser
- Tom Woodward, Special Adviser
- Christopher W Morgan, Cabinet Secretariat (minutes)
- Damian Roche, Cabinet Secretariat
- Piers Bisson, Director European Transition (items 2 & 3)

Item 1: Government Plenary Business

1.1 Cabinet discussed the contents of the Plenary grid. Ministers noted the proposal to suspend Standing Orders in order to table a motion for a debate on Wednesday on the UK Government's future options for Brexit, which would follow the vote in Parliament on Tuesday evening.

1.2 In addition to the three Topical Questions that had already been tabled, it suggested that a fourth question on Health Inspectorate Wales' report on Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board's background check failings was likely to be tabled.

Item 2: Brexit Update

2.1 The First Minister informed Cabinet that he, along with the Scottish First Minister, had met the Prime Minister in London the previous Wednesday to discuss Brexit related matters. It was clear from the discussion that the Prime Minister would need to secure a clear majority in Parliament for the deal, otherwise the Government would find it difficult to secure safe passage of the subsequent legislation.

2.2 Prior to the meeting with the Prime Minister, the First Minister had held a bilateral

with the First Minister of Scotland.

2.3 In terms of the Government's debate on Wednesday, in response to the vote in Parliament, Welsh Ministers would be aiming to shape the motion with support from Plaid Cymru, but nothing could be firmed up until the outcome of the debate in the House of Commons was known. Around 15 amendments had been tabled to the Prime Minister's proposal and it was unclear at this stage which would be selected by the Speaker.

2.4 It was reported that the First Minister had been invited to attend weekly meetings of the UK Cabinet Committee on European Union Exit and Trade (Preparedness).

Item 3: Cabinet Meeting in North Wales

3.1 The First Minister informed Ministers that, given recent developments in North Wales, there would be a Business Cabinet in Llandudno Junction on Thursday 21st February, which would replace the meeting planned for the 18th of that month.

Item 4: Any other business

4.1 The Counsel General and Brexit Minister joined the meeting and reported on his attendance at JMC (E) and meeting with the Minister for the Cabinet Office, David Lidington MP, in London earlier that day.

4.2 It was reported that the UK Government would be publishing a paper later that day on EU immigration in the event of a no deal scenario. The paper was expected to outline that EU citizens would be able to enter the UK for short visits of up to three months. Those nationals wishing to stay longer would need to apply to the Foreign Office to seek leave to remain in the UK.