

International agreements

Agreements considered on
19 May 2025

June 2025



1. Background

- 1.** The Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee is responsible for the scrutiny of non-trade international agreements in the sixth Senedd.
- 2.** International agreements signed by the UK Government can cover matters within devolved competence or matters which have important policy implications for Wales.
- 3.** The Committee considers the impact on Wales of international agreements laid in the UK Parliament under the process established by the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG Act 2010). It provides an initial 21-day scrutiny period.
- 4.** Our consideration of an international agreement takes into account:
 - whether it engages the Senedd's competence; and/or
 - whether there are potential policy implications for Wales.
- 5.** On 19 May 2025,¹ we considered two international agreements that had recently been laid in the UK Parliament:
 - Amendments to the International Labour Convention on the Recognition of a Safe and Healthy Working Environment as a Fundamental Principle; and
 - UK/France: Agreement on Safety and Interoperability Requirements in the Channel Fixed Link.
- 6.** We agreed to take further action in relation to one of these agreements. Details on each of the agreements, and the action we took, are set out below.

¹ Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, 19 May 2025

2. Agreements requiring further action

Amendments to the International Labour Convention on the Recognition of a Safe and Healthy Working Environment as a Fundamental Principle

- 7.** This international agreement was laid in the UK Parliament on 22 April 2025. Its scrutiny deadline, as required by the CRaG Act 2010, was 4 June 2025.
- 8.** The purpose of the agreement is to introduce amendments to other International Labour Organisation Conventions and instruments. These amendments reflect the inclusion of the right to a safe and healthy working environment in the International Labour Organisation's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work in June 2022.
- 9.** The International Labour Organisation is the United Nations specialised agency that promotes internationally-recognised rights for workers, primarily through Conventions that are legally binding on those countries that ratify them, and its monitoring of how those rights are being applied.
- 10.** The Explanatory Memorandum confirms that no new legislation is required to implement the agreement.²
- 11.** The Explanatory Memorandum states that this agreement relates to both devolved and reserved matters: health and safety at work and employment are devolved to Northern Ireland, and health and safety are reserved areas in Scotland and Wales.³
- 12.** It also states that the UK Government consulted the devolved governments on the drafting of the agreement, and in the preparation of the Explanatory Memorandum, and that each of the devolved governments is content with the UK's decision to ratify the agreement.⁴
- 13.** Although the agreement concerns a reserved matter in Wales, we agreed to notify the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee of the agreement, in light

² UK Government, Explanatory Memorandum: International Labour Convention No. 191 concerning Amendments to Standards Consequential to the Recognition of a Safe and Healthy Working Environment as a Fundamental Principle, 22 April 2025, paragraph 5

³ UK Government, Explanatory Memorandum: International Labour Convention No. 191 concerning Amendments to Standards Consequential to the Recognition of a Safe and Healthy Working Environment as a Fundamental Principle, 22 April 2025, paragraph 10

⁴ UK Government, Explanatory Memorandum: International Labour Convention No. 191 concerning Amendments to Standards Consequential to the Recognition of a Safe and Healthy Working Environment as a Fundamental Principle, 22 April 2025, paragraph 10

of its economy remit, as well as the Equality and Social Justice Committee, in light of its fair work and human rights remit.

3. Agreements noted for information

UK/France: Agreement on Safety and Interoperability Requirements in the Channel Fixed Link

15. This international agreement was laid in the UK Parliament on 25 April 2025. Its scrutiny deadline, as required by the CRaG Act 2010, is 10 June 2025.

16. The purpose of this agreement is to establish a new governance and regulatory framework for the Channel Fixed Link in the fields of railway safety, interoperability, and rail accident investigation.

17. The Explanatory Memorandum states that the UK Government is expecting to make regulations, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 11 of the *Channel Tunnel Act 1987*, later this year to implement this agreement.⁵

18. The Explanatory Memorandum states that the UK Government has engaged with the devolved governments at various points throughout the process of negotiating the agreement and the drafting process. The UK Government confirms that the devolved governments have not raised any objections to the changes, as it does not impact upon the rail system in their respective territories.⁶

19. As rail transport is a reserved matter, as provided by paragraph 117 of Schedule 7A to the *Government of Wales Act 2006* (the 2006 Act), and the subject matter of the *Channel Tunnel Act 1987* is specifically reserved by paragraph 118 of Schedule 7A to the 2006 Act, we agreed to note the agreement for information only.

⁵ [UK Government, Explanatory Memorandum: UK/France: Agreement on Safety and Interoperability Requirements in the Channel Fixed Link](#), 25 April 2025, paragraph 5

⁶ UK Government, Explanatory Memorandum: UK/France: Agreement on Safety and Interoperability Requirements in the Channel Fixed Link, 25 April 2025, paragraph 10