

International agreements

Agreements considered on
29 September 2025

October 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 29 September 2025,¹ we considered three international agreements that had recently been laid in the UK Parliament:
 - Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage;
 - Agreement on defence export controls; and
 - UK-Australia Nuclear-Powered Submarine Partnership and Collaboration Agreement.
6. We agreed to note these agreements for information only.
7. We also noted that the UK-Mauritius Agreement concerning the Chagos Archipelago, which had previously been agreed in principle, and subsequently noted by the Committee in January 2025², had been formally laid in the UK Parliament on 22 May 2025.

¹ Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, 29 September 2025

² Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Agreements considered on 6 January 2025, January 2025

2. Agreements noted for information

Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage

- 8.** This international agreement was laid in the UK Parliament on 30 June 2025. Its scrutiny deadline, as required by the CRaG Act 2010, was 10 September 2025.
- 9.** The purpose of this agreement is to establish a minimum level of national compensation to be made available for victims of a nuclear incident. Additionally, it seeks to further increase the amount of compensation available through the establishment of a shared international fund that can be used to compensate victims once the national compensation is exhausted.
- 10.** The Explanatory Memorandum to the agreement states that the draft Nuclear Installations (Compensation for Nuclear Damage) (Amendment) Regulations 2025³, to be made under section 306 of the Energy Act 2023, set out further technical changes to the way the agreement will be implemented domestically in the United Kingdom.⁴
- 11.** The Explanatory Memorandum also states that the UK Government has consulted with the Scottish Government in relation to the likely impact upon the functions of the Scottish Ministers.⁵
- 12.** As the agreement concerns nuclear energy, which is a reserved matter as provided by paragraph 99 of Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006 (the 2006 Act), we agreed to note the agreement for information only.

Agreement on defence export controls

- 13.** This international agreement was laid in the UK Parliament on 1 September 2025. Its scrutiny deadline, as required by the CRaG Act 2010, is 30 October 2025.
- 14.** The agreement allows its contracting parties to consult on national laws, regulations, and national political principles regarding the control of transfers

³ Available at: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2025/9780348272079

⁴ UK Government, [Explanatory Memorandum: Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage](#), paragraph 5

⁵ UK Government, [Explanatory Memorandum: Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage](#), paragraph 10

and exports to ensure the economic and political success of their industrial and intergovernmental cooperation.

15. The Explanatory Memorandum states that the UK Government has not consulted with the devolved governments, as it considers that the agreement relates fully to a reserved matter with no direct implications for the devolved governments.⁶

16. As the agreement concerns national security, which is a reserved matter as provided by paragraph 32 of Schedule 7A to the 2006 Act, we agreed to note the agreement for information only.

UK-Australia Nuclear-Powered Submarine Partnership and Collaboration Agreement

17. This international agreement was laid in the UK Parliament on 1 September 2025. Its scrutiny deadline, as required by the CReG Act 2010, is 30 October 2025.

18. The purpose of the agreement is to enable and facilitate comprehensive bilateral cooperation between the UK and Australia in support of the successful delivery of AUKUS Pillar I (a trilateral defence and security partnership including the United States of America).

19. The Explanatory Memorandum states that the UK Government has not consulted with the devolved governments, as it considers that the agreement relates fully to a reserved matter with no direct implications for the devolved governments.⁷

20. As the agreement concerns defence and nuclear energy, which are reserved matters as provided by paragraphs 11 and 99, respectively, of Schedule 7A to the 2006 Act, we agreed to note the agreement for information only.

⁶ UK Government, Explanatory Memorandum: [Agreement on defence export controls](#), paragraph 10

⁷ UK Government, [Explanatory Memorandum: UK/Australia: Nuclear-Powered Submarine Partnership and Collaboration Agreement](#), paragraph 10