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THE PRIME MINISTER

8 May 2021

Den Mark,

Congratulations on your impending re-election as First Minister of Wales. I look forward to working with you in the years ahead in a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect to serve the people of Wales. We both share a belief in the enormous potential of our United Kingdom – both to be a force for good in the world and to be an engine of security and prosperity for its citizens here at home.

People across the UK, and in particular, the people of Wales are best served when we work together. Our vaccine roll-out has been a clear demonstration of that fact. The UK Government procured vaccines at scale for citizens across the whole UK. The dedicated and hardworking staff of the NHS in Wales excelled in getting jabs into arms from Cardiff to Caernarfon. This is Team UK in action, and I recommit the United Kingdom Government to working with the Welsh Government in this cooperative spirit.

As we continue our work to overcome the acute phase of the pandemic, we must now begin the first steps of our recovery. We know that this will be a difficult journey. The broad shoulders of the UK have supported jobs and businesses the length and breadth of the country, but we know that economic recovery will be a serious shared responsibility. From hours of lost learning in schools, to delays in the NHS and courts, the pandemic has also posed challenges for our public services which will take time to address. In doing so, we need to show the same spirit of unity and cooperation that marked our fight against the pandemic.

You have rightly made COVID recovery a priority. To that end, I would like to invite you to join me, UK Government colleagues and others at a summit meeting to discuss our shared challenges and how we can work together in the coming months and years to overcome them. I will be writing in similar terms to the First Minister of Scotland, and the First and deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland. We will all have our own perspectives and ideas - and we will not always agree - but I am confident that by learning from each other we will be able to build back better, in the interests of the people we serve.

*Yours ever
Boris*

The Right Honourable Mark Drakeford MS