



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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Cllr Annwen Daniels  
Chairman of the Council  
Gwynedd Council  
Swyddfa'r Cyngor  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd LL55 1SH

2 February 2018

Dear Cllr Daniels,

Thank you for your letter of 25 January to the Foreign Secretary about the situation in Catalonia. I am replying on behalf of the Spain Team.

I note the concerns expressed by Gwynedd Council in its motion. Spain is a close ally and a good friend, whose strength and unity matters to us. The UK remains clear that questions related to Catalan independence should be resolved within the proper constitutional and legal channels and continues to support Spain in upholding the Spanish Constitution and the rule of law. The 1978 Constitution was a key element in Spain's peaceful transition to a democracy and was approved by the whole of Spain, including Catalonia. The Constitution does not allow the Spanish government to authorise the secession of any region.

It is for the Spanish courts to determine whether those individuals referred to in your motion have broken the law. Every democracy has its own rules, laws and procedures, setting out both rights and responsibilities. Political leaders, like anyone else, have a duty to abide by the law.

Yours sincerely,

*Andrew Kelly*

Europe Directorate