



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

**Paul Scully MP**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of  
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Our ref: MCB2021/27892

10 December 2021

Dear Councillor Glyn,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 November to the Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, regarding the motion on officially recognising St David's Day as a bank holiday in Wales. I am responding as this matter falls within my ministerial portfolio.

While we appreciate that the people of Wales want to celebrate their patron saint, more people work across the English/ Welsh border than across the English/ Scottish border. This closer degree of integration could cause greater business disruption. If we had separate bank holidays in England and Wales, the impact on both employees and businesses is difficult to predict.

While an additional bank holiday may benefit some communities and sectors, the cost to the economy of an additional bank holiday remains considerable. An assessment following the additional bank holiday for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 showed that (across the UK as a whole) the additional bank holiday cost the economy around £1.2 billion.

Each devolution settlement has been developed against a backdrop of different histories, economic, social and cultural and legal systems. Different factors will require separate considerations. What works in one place may not work for another and we should not assume that devolution is the right solution because the matter is devolved elsewhere.

For this reason, the Government has no current plans to change the well-established and accepted arrangements for bank holidays in Wales.

The UK Government remains committed to working together with all the Devolved Administrations to ensure that the UK's institutions are working collectively as one United Kingdom. We appreciate the ongoing close working with the Welsh Government, while also respecting their devolved nature, ensuring we build a strong, enterprising economy across the United Kingdom.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Scully', written in a cursive style.

**PAUL SCULLY MP**

Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets

Minister for London