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**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[www.gov.uk/ago](http://www.gov.uk/ago)

5 June 2020

Dear Counsel General,

**Re: Coronavirus legislation – divergence of the law in England and Wales and clarity for citizens**

Thank you for your letter of 13 May 2020, in which you helpfully provided details of the efforts being made by the Welsh Government to communicate how legislation relating to the current pandemic differs in terms of application to Wales as opposed to England. Your letter also encouraged me to take steps to ensure that the UK government does all that it can to give clarity to any differences in the law governing the lockdown in England and in Wales.

I completely agree that clarity is important. We have confronted this virus collectively and have worked closely with the devolved administrations every step of the way and will continue to do so. However, the virus has spread at different rates across the country and therefore, different parts of the UK may begin to move at slightly different speeds. The guidance set out recently by the UK Government should therefore be considered alongside local public health directions issued by the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and it is for the devolved administrations to decide whether to amend their own legislation and guidance.

I hope this provides sufficient reassurance that I will keep in mind the need to ensure ongoing clarity in how the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic might be faced.

**Personal Data**

**RT HON SUELLA BRAVERMAN QC MP**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**