



Department for
Business & Trade

Justin Madders MP
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Minister for Employment Rights,
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Councillor Beca Roberts
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Dear Cllr Roberts,

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 October to Jonathan Reynolds MP about making 1st March a national holiday in Wales for St David's Day. I am responding as this matter falls within my ministerial portfolio.

I appreciate the sentiment behind Cyngor Gwynedd's request and appreciate the importance of St David's Day to the people of Wales. However, while an additional bank holiday may benefit some communities and sectors, the cost to the economy of an additional bank holiday is considerable.

The latest analysis estimates the cost to the UK economy for a one-off bank holiday to be around £2bn. In recent years, the annual leave entitlement has increased for many workers, but there is no statutory right to time off for bank or public holidays. Any right to time off or extra pay for working on a bank holiday depends on the terms of an employee's contract of employment.

For these reasons, the Government has no current plans to change the well-established and accepted pattern of bank holidays in Wales. In addition, while bank holidays are devolved to the Scottish Government, each devolution settlement has been developed against a backdrop of different histories, as well as different economic, social and cultural, and legal systems. Devolution may not be suitable even where the matter is devolved elsewhere.

We remain committed to working together with all the Devolved Governments. We appreciate our ongoing close working relationship with the Welsh Government, while also respecting its devolved nature.

Yours sincerely,

JUSTIN MADDERS MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment Rights, Competition and Markets