

To John Walker on his retirement

20 May 2020

Dear John

You've been a dominant fixture at BWC meetings for as long as I can remember. When I think back on all the times we've sat in Palais conference rooms, I can easily hear your voice, consistently guiding meeting after meeting with your in-depth expertise of both content and process, always offered with generous helpings of wit and scattered Celtic references.

Your ingenuity, analytical skill and realist perspective have not only benefited the UK delegation, but the BWC community as a whole.

Indeed, when I think of any biological threat-related workshop, be it at the FCO, Wilton Park, UCL, King's, Sussex, Kent, or in Geneva, you have been there, shaping the way in which I understand, and engage with, our rather niche subject matter.

Your outreach to the British-based CBW community has been of real value to me, and I have greatly appreciated your readiness to actively participate in workshops and meetings that I have organised, and to engage with my students. Thank you for always taking the time to contribute my work, from my early projects on CBMs to my more recent projects on compliance assessment. I have treasured your insights and advice over the last 15+ years.

I shall certainly be doing my best to persuade you to remain involved in our community. But for now, I look forward to the time when we can share a celebratory toast in person. A very happy, a well-deserved, retirement to you John. Job well done.