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The Rt Hon. the Lord Whitty
Chair, EU Internal Market Sub-Committee
House of Lords
London
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26 October 2017

Dear Lord Whitty,

Brexit: Trade in non-financial services

Thank you for your letter of 19 September regarding the Government's response to the *Brexit: trade in non-financial services* report. You have asked for a schedule for the publication of relevant position papers and the date by which you will receive the response to your Committee's report.

The Brexit negotiations are the most important negotiations our country faces and reaching a new partnership with the EU is in the interests of both sides. Amidst the ongoing negotiations, it would not make sense to have a pre-determined timetable for the publication of the Government's policy papers. The timing of any information we publish is carefully considered and flexible to support the UK's negotiators secure the best possible outcome for the negotiations - an outcome I know your Committee would not seek to undermine.

The position and future partnership papers published over the summer, along with the Prime Minister's speech in Florence, have instilled real momentum in the negotiations. That momentum was maintained during October, and both negotiating teams have continued to work constructively together.

Since June, we have steadily developed our shared political objectives. Nevertheless while there is still some way to go to secure our new partnership, we remain confident that we are on the right path towards a deal that works for both the UK and the EU.

I hope you will understand therefore that I cannot provide you with a schedule of publications or a fixed date by which you will receive a response. I can, however, assure you that the Government will seek the earliest possible opportunity to publish the response as the negotiations progress.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jayce Anelay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**RT HON BARONESS ANELAY OF ST JOHNS DBE
MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION**

cc. Lord Jay of Ewelme