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Lord Boswell of Aynho
House of Lords
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21 April 2017

Dear Lord Boswell,

Thank you for your report on "*Brexit: UK-Irish relations*", HL76, which sets out the key areas of the UK's relationship with Ireland that may be affected by the UK's exit from the European Union.

Your Committee asked for an explanation as to why the Government has not yet been able to publish a formal response to this report.

We are aware that a response to this report is still outstanding. We were unable to publish a response by the initial February deadline due to pre-election period restrictions arising from the early Northern Ireland Assembly elections. My officials and your Clerk agreed that it would be sensible to wait to see if a Northern Ireland Executive could be established before publishing a response to the report. We remain unable to do so due to the ongoing discussions to enable a devolved government in Northern Ireland to be resumed.

RT HON JAMES BROKENSHIRE MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

ROBIN WALKER MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
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