



# Committee on Exiting the European Union

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Cabinet Office  
70 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AS

17 September 2019

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 11 September, with which you enclosed the summary Operation Yellowhammer document following the Humble Address passed by the House on 9 September.

I would be grateful if you could explain why the document we received is entitled the "Reasonable Worst Case Scenario", whereas it has been reported that a very similar if not identical version obtained by the Sunday Times was entitled the "Base Scenario". Could you set out and explain any differences between the two documents? Also, since the document you sent me was a five-page summary, I assume that there are more detailed papers supporting these assessments. I would therefore be grateful if you could now make these available to the Select Committee and to MPs so that we can test the assumptions for ourselves.

You explained in your letter that the Operation Yellowhammer document was based on assumptions drawn up under the previous Government and re-stated the commitment you had made to our Committee that you would publish revised assumptions in due course alongside a document outlining the mitigations that the Government has already put in place or plans to. I would be grateful if you could confirm how soon you intend to share those documents with Parliament. In doing so, I hope you will make it clear which assumptions on which the original Operation Yellowhammer document was drafted have now been revised.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Hilary Benn  
Chair