



**Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government**

Clive Betts MP  
Chair  
Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
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**The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP**  
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and  
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14 June 2018

Dear Clive,

Thank you for your letter of 21 May, following up on a number of specific points in relation to the Committee's ongoing inquiry about Brexit and local government. I have responded to each in turn below.

**1. EU funding**

You asked for clarity on how UK Government will assess whether EU projects support domestic priorities and offer good value for money. Following the EU Referendum, the Government reaffirmed the importance of these requirements. We put in place specific arrangements to support this, which were introduced from autumn 2016 following the Government's announcement. These were built into our assessment and approval processes and included a range of additional checks and measures to increase the focus on value for money and domestic priorities. We have also introduced opportunities for local government and other stakeholders to advise departments on local priorities and value for money. I can therefore assure you that all projects that are covered by the EU funding guarantee will already support domestic priorities and offer good value for money, and will not need to be further assessed after Brexit.

**2. Departmental workstreams to implement Brexit**

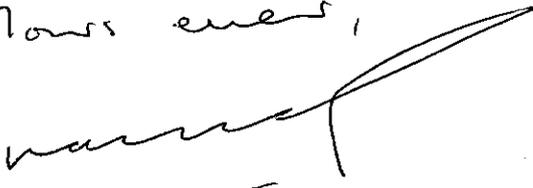
I note your request for details of the ten MHCLG workstreams to implement Brexit, as noted in the summary sent to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in April; covering EU structural funds, access to public services, and the implications of exit on local government and housing delivery. As set out in my predecessor's letters to your Committee, the Department is committed to aiding the Inquiry into Brexit and Local Government. We are also committed to finding an appropriate arrangement that allows effective parliamentary scrutiny while avoiding prejudicing the negotiations to leave the EU or our preparations for implementing the results.

The MHCLG summary sets out the policy areas requiring particular focus, the current number of workstreams for which each department is responsible, and some specific examples. It balanced the PAC's request with the need to not do anything that risks undermining our negotiations with the EU.

In response to your interest in devolution of powers, I agree with the sector that repatriation of legislation from the EU provides the scope to review the responsibilities of local government. We will look carefully at how repatriated powers can be devolved further, and I would welcome any views from the Committee and your Inquiry findings on this.

### **3. Representation of local government in Brexit negotiations**

My Department and the Department for Exiting the EU have been engaging with the sector on Brexit through a wide range of channels and fora to date, for example EU Exit roundtables in Cornwall and Great Yarmouth, and my officials' attendance at regional engagement events facilitated by the Local Government Association. As I acknowledged in my previous letter, now is the time to put this engagement on a more formal footing, which I propose to do through a Ministerial Local Government Advisory Board.

Yours ever,  


**RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP**