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Minister of State for  
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7 February 2019

Tom Tugendhat MP  
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

*Dear Tom,*

I am writing to inform you that an agreement has been reached between the UK and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein ('the EEA EFTA states') to protect citizens' rights in the event of a 'no deal' outcome with the EU.

On 20 December, a separation agreement was reached between the UK and the EEA EFTA states, covering citizens' rights as well as other separation issues. Discussions have since taken place to secure a separate citizens' rights agreement with the EEA EFTA states that would apply in a 'no deal' scenario with the EU. This follows confirmation from the Prime Minister in October that the UK would still want to reach an agreement with the EEA EFTA states to guarantee the rights of citizens in the event of no deal with the EU. Discussions have now concluded, and the agreement reached ensures that citizens falling within scope will have broadly the same entitlement to work, study and access to public services and benefits as now.

The EEA EFTA separation agreement relies on some of the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement, which would not apply in a no deal scenario. In such a scenario, therefore, we will instead bring this no deal citizens' rights agreement into force. Together, these agreements will protect around 17,000 UK nationals living in the EEA EFTA states and approximately 15,000 EEA EFTA nationals in the UK, in any scenario.

The Government has today published the draft agreement and an Explainer on GOV.UK, as it did for the EEA EFTA separation agreement on 20 December. I enclose copies of these; copies have also been placed in the Library of the House.

*Yours,  
Alan*

RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP