

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SWIA OAA

March 2018

I am writing to you regarding the Government's response to the Foreign Affairs Committee's report Article 50: Implications of no deal. Please accept my sincerest apologies for the delay in replying.

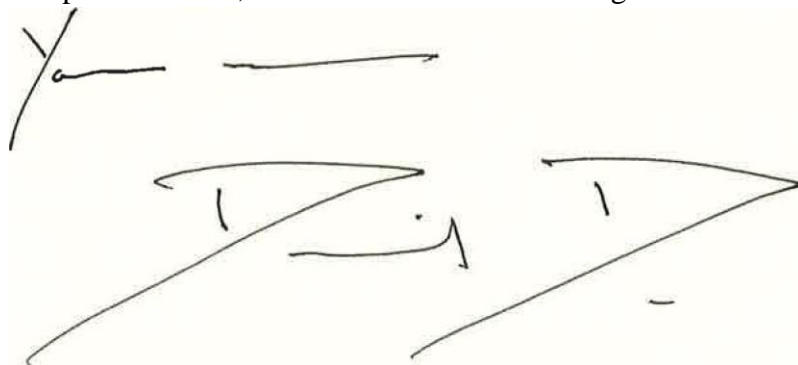
The Government recognises the considerable amount of time and effort invested by the Committee to produce this insightful report, and the vital contribution that the Committee continues to make on this topic.

It is always our intention that select committees should receive the most up-to-date and comprehensive information possible. The pace and sensitivity of the ongoing negotiations with the European Union make this even more important, especially in terms of ensuring that responses fully reflect associated policy developments. This brings additional challenges, of course, and the timing of publishing any material also needs to weigh up the potential impact on the UK's goal of securing the best possible outcome from the negotiations — an aim that I know the Committee supports. I can, however, assure you that the Government is aiming to issue its response at the earliest possible opportunity as the negotiations continue.

Nevertheless I am clear that if the Government is unable to provide a response to reports in a timely manner, they should offer select committees an explanation for the delay. I regret that an explanation has not been forthcoming before this point.

I would like to thank you again for the Committee's continuing work and reiterate the Government's commitment to sending a response as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; and Crispin Blunt MP, as former Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Davis', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

RT HON DAVID DAVIS MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION