



Liaison Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

23 April 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for appearing before this Committee on 27 March. This letter sets out some areas where you kindly undertook to send further information, or where the Committee seeks further clarification, as follows:

UK Relationship with Russia

1. Will the Government take urgent action to close the loopholes in the financial sanctions against Russia, in particular by stopping the Russian state issuing bonds in UK capital markets to raise foreign capital to refinance sanctioned organisations?

Thank you for agreeing to provide more detail on the specific case where, earlier this year, Russian state-issued bonds were sold to investors in the UK to refinance the foreign currency holdings of the sanctioned VTB Bank. (q1)

In 2016, the sanctioned Russian oil company Rosneft sold a stake to a consortium of investors, including Glencore. When will the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation publish the findings of their investigation into Glencore's purchase? (q3)

2. Is the Home Office examining the 700 individual cases of Tier 1 (Investor) visas allocated to Russian investors without full checks between 2008 and 2015? What proportion of those cases would pass current Tier 1 visa checks on individuals and finances? If the Home Office is not examining cases retrospectively, why not? (qq 6-9)

3. Will the Government consider re-instating the ring-fenced £25 million per annum grant to the BBC monitoring service? If not, why not? (qq 12-13)

4. Has the Government assessed whether there has been interference by Russia in any UK election or referendum, for example activity on social media that could be linked to

Russian agencies? If so, what were the conclusions of those investigations? (qq 19 -20, 25-29)

EU Exit

5. If it is not possible to come to an agreement between the Government and the devolved administrations on UK-wide frameworks post EU exit, will the frameworks be imposed, overruling the continuity legislation recently passed in the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament? (qq 36- 38)

6. Delays at border inspection posts post-Brexit could lead to increased costs and are a threat to perishable goods. Is the Government certain that the necessary infrastructure will be in place in UK ports so that agricultural products can continue to be traded smoothly with Europe under World Trade Organisation rules, if a Free Trade Agreement is not reached? What contingency planning is in place? (qq 45- 46, 71-72)

7. Will the Government commit to introducing an Environmental Protection Bill, to be passed before the UK leaves the EU? (qq 61- 62) And will the promised new independent statutory body to hold Government to account for upholding environmental standards be well established by the end of the transition period? (q 63)

8. Will the Government publish the list of over 300 work streams being undertaken by the Civil Service to implement EU Exit, and the RAG rating for each? (q 64)

9. Is the Government's intention to agree the details of the proposed Associate Membership of the European Chemicals Agency by October? (qq 66-68)

Defence

10. Given the current international situation, and recent developments in Syria, would you agree that it is sensible to aim to increase significantly the proportion of GDP spent on defence? (qq 13- 15, 85- 89)

Rohingya

11. What is the UK's view of the ICC Chief Prosecutor's request for an opinion from the Court's judges as to whether the ICC has jurisdiction over the alleged illegal deportation of the Rohingya to Bangladesh and whether the receiving country being an ICC signatory 'opens the door' to proactive consideration of the case by the Court? (qq31-35)


Health and Social Care

12. Will the Government bring forward a Green paper on social care which does not separate social care for older adults from social care for working-age adults? (q79)

Finally, thank you for agreeing to meet with me and other parliamentarians to discuss the urgent concerns set out in our letter of 23 March. I welcome your announcement of further funding for the NHS in advance of the next spending review and look forward to discussing this further alongside the long-term funding of health, social care and public health. I agree that it is essential to build cross-party consensus on reform and funding, but feel strongly that this is far more likely to be successful if it is built in from the start of the process.

It would be very helpful to set a date for the next evidence session with you at a time between now and the start of the Summer recess. Early notification of the date would be very helpful to facilitate our planning and preparation.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Wollaston'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP
Chair of the Committee

