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THE PRIME MINISTER

17 July 2018

Dear Sarah

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 July, in response to my previous letter to you. I am happy to further clarify my position on the questions you raise.

With regard to your first question, as you may know, Council Regulation 833/2014 was adopted to apply additional targeted restrictive measures on Russia with a view to increasing the cost of Russian action to undermine Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence, as well as to promote a peaceful settlement to the crisis. As the objective was to increase the cost of Russia's actions and to restrict the access to capital markets of financial institutions which promote the competitiveness of the Russian economy, it was not deemed necessary to designate non Russian-established subsidiaries.

You have also asked for more detail on the funding of BBC Monitoring (BBCM). The Government is satisfied with both the current funding model as well as BBCM's ability to deliver the agreed service. I would, however, like to be clear that we will continue to monitor its performance based on Key Performance Indicators set out in the Monitoring Agreement. Furthermore, whilst BBCM provides a valuable resource, the Government is not solely reliant on their service.


As to devolved administrations and UK-wide frameworks, I can confirm that we have made significant progress on where future frameworks are needed and what these should look like. These discussions have been guided by the principles agreed between the UK Government and Scottish and Welsh Governments at the Joint Ministerial Council (European Negotiations) in October 2017. Furthermore, with respect to the questions over whether the Scottish Parliament's Continuity Bill goes beyond the powers of the Scottish Parliament, we have referred this case to the Supreme Court to provide much needed clarity. It would be inappropriate for me to comment before the Court has made its judgment.

With regard to Question 7 and the new independent environmental watchdog, I can confirm that we are stepping up preparations within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and elsewhere to make sure that operationally and legislatively there is as small a gap as is practically achievable in the highly unlikely event of an exit from the EU with no deal. The Government is confident of leaving the EU with a deal on an implementation period, which the EU has indicated would also be its preference.

Turning to your question on the European Chemical Agency (ECA): as outlined in my Mansion House speech and the White Paper, the Government seeks participation in the ECA under new arrangements that recognise that the UK will not be a Member State. Negotiations are underway in Brussels this week and we are working towards agreement on the framework for the future relationship in the autumn.

Lastly, regarding the crisis in Rohingya, we are awaiting the International Criminal Court's decision on whether it has jurisdiction over the deportations of the Rohingya from Burma to Bangladesh, on the basis that Bangladesh, unlike Burma, is party to the Rome Statute. The UK respects the independence of the court in this matter. If the Court decides it does have jurisdiction, any investigation would be limited to the alleged crime of deportation of the Rohingya. The Court would not have jurisdiction to investigate other alleged crimes on Burmese territory without a referral from the UN Security Council. I want to be clear, however, that we want justice to be done. The Government will continue to look at all available options to ensure accountability, and will work with our international partners to determine what can be done to both assist the victims and to bring those responsible to justice.

Thank you, once again, for taking the time to write. I am looking forward to appearing before the Liaison Committee tomorrow.

Yours ever


Dr Sarah Wollaston MP