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Dr Andrew Murrison MP
Chair
Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
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2 November 2017

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter dated 5 October requesting an update on two outstanding Government responses to the previous Committee's inquiries.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing the Government's responses to the Committee's reports.

Work is progressing as a matter of urgency on the Government responses to these reports and will be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible.

Additionally, on the *Promoting the tourism industry in Northern Ireland through the tax system* report in line with the Confidence and Supply Agreement and the recommendations of the Committee, the Government will look again at the impact of both VAT and APD on tourism in Northern Ireland, and will commission a detailed consultative report to gather further evidence to recommend how best to build upon the growing success of that sector. Further details on the report will be announced in due course.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee during this Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND