



**Department  
for Exiting the  
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Charles Walker OBE MP  
Chair, Procedure Committee  
House of Commons  
London, SW1A 0AA

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*Dear Charles,*

Thank you for your letter of 17 September to the Prime Minister inviting the Government to contribute to your Committee's inquiry into the procedure to apply to the vote provided for under section 13(1) of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. I am replying on behalf of the Prime Minister, and our formal response is attached.

The formal process of our departure began with the submission of a notification to the European Council on 29 March 2017. This was only possible through Parliament's approval of the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017. Parliament subsequently agreed to set the time of the UK's exit in domestic law as 29 March 2019 at 11pm, aligning with the moment at which the UK will leave the EU under international law, through the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018. It was through this Act that Parliament also confirmed its ultimate role in delivering the will of the people through section 13 which confirmed that approval of the final deal is the responsibility of the House of Commons alone.

Throughout the process of negotiating our exit from the EU both the Government and Parliament have recognised the importance of providing as much certainty as possible to the country. Once the deal is presented to Parliament, the procedure through which it is voted upon must allow for an unequivocal decision, and one which is clear to the British public. Anything other than a straightforward approval of the deal will bring with it huge uncertainty for business, consumers and citizens.

The Government places great importance on the vital role of Parliament in approving the deal negotiated with the European Union. We would welcome your Committee's assistance in ensuring that the procedure through which MPs debate and vote on the final deals does not undermine the intention of the Act.

I am copying this letter to the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, Leader of the House of Commons.

*Yours sincerely, Dominic Raab*

**RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION**