Dear Permanent Secretary,

Thank you for your letter on 24 June confirming: a) the release of un-redacted versions of the EU Exit consultancy contracts the Cabinet Office to the Public Accounts Committee on a strictly confidential basis and b) your commitment to provide more details on the redactions in contracts owned by other departments. On the first point, I can confirm that the exchange of papers took place between your office and the Public Accounts Committee office on 27 June. On the latter point, I look forward to your reply on 15 July, as you outline in the letter.

Further to this, I am writing to formally request the individual engagement letters for the following items of EU Exit consultancy work (outlined in Figure 8 of the National Audit Office report Departments’ use of consultants to support preparations for EU Exit):

- The Border Delivery Group’s contract with Bain & Company between August 2018 and February 2019 to support the group’s engagement with industry, particularly the food industry and car manufacturing, to understand the impact a no-deal exit would have on them
- The Department for Exiting the European Union’s (DExEU) contract with Boston Consulting Group from December 2017 until at least March 2019 to support DExEU’s cross-government coordination of EU Exit activities.

The Committee is keen to get a better understanding of the activities consultants are undertaking and, in turn, how this relates to the broad categories of work consultants are contracted for. We expect the engagement letters we receive to set out the specific requirements for each time a department used a consultancy firm contracted by the Cabinet Office.

The Committee understands that these documents may contain sensitive and commercially confidential information. I propose that the documents are provided on similar terms to those agreed between the Committee and the Chancellor of the
Duchy of Lancaster in relation to confidential documents for the first batch of un-redacted EU Exit consultancy contracts and Strategic Suppliers. The material will be locked in a safe in the Committee's offices; Committee members will be able to review the material in a reading room with a member of the Committee staff present. I would be grateful if you could provide this material by noon on Thursday 18 July.

MEG HILLIER MP
CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS