



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

<http://www.parliament.uk/science>

scitechcom@parliament.uk / 020 7219 2792

From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Sam Gyimah MP

Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

1 Victoria Street

London. SW1H 0ET

1 November 2018

Dear Sam,

Quantum technologies

Thank you for your letter of 23 October regarding the Science and Technology Committee's inquiry into quantum technologies. I am writing to ask a few specific questions following on from your letter, pertaining to the Government's proposed measures for national security and investment.¹

- Giving evidence to the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy on 15 October, Tim Jarvis, Director of Consumer and Competition Policy at BEIS, told the Committee that a public interest intervention notice had been issued eight times in relation to national security under the Enterprise Act 2002.² Of these eight cases, how many had been voluntarily notified to the Government? How did the Government become aware of any of these cases that were not voluntarily notified?
- The Government has stated that it intends to ensure that it becomes aware of trigger events by increasing its resources dedicated to 'market monitoring' and by investing in the "tools and systems necessary". What assessment has the Government made of the residual risk that trigger events will occur without the Government being aware of them within the call-in timeframe?

¹ Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, '[National Security and Investment: A consultation on proposed legislative reforms](#)' (2018)

² '[Oral evidence: National Security and Investment](#)', Joint Committee on National Security Strategy, 15 October 2018, Q19

- The Government has proposed that the Senior Minister will be able to call in a case up to six months after a trigger event.³ The White Paper notes that this is considerably shorter than similar regimes in other countries (such as Germany, Australia and the USA). Why does the Government feel that the period in which the UK Government can retrospectively call in a trigger event should be significantly shorter than the equivalent period in other countries?

I look forward to receiving your response. I would be grateful if you could reply no later than Wednesday 14 November.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Lamb', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair

³ Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, '[National Security and Investment: A consultation on proposed legislative reforms](#)' (2018), para 6.32