



Treasury Committee

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Tony Meggs Esq
Chief Executive
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30 March 2017

Dear Tony,

Customs Declaration Service

You will be aware of HMRC's Customs Declaration Services (CDS) programme, which is intended to replace the existing system for handling import and export freight (CHIEF) from January 2019.

Now that the Government has made a decision to leave the EU customs union, it is critically important that this project is delivered successfully and on time. If there are even modest delays, there is potential for major disruption to trade and economic activity.

In response to questions I raised with him, Jim Harra has written to inform me that the RAG status of the CDS project as at 31 January 2017 was Amber/Red. This compares with a Green status as recently as 25 November 2016.

I would be grateful if you could conduct a delivery confidence assessment of the CDS project, and make your findings available to the Treasury Committee, as soon as possible. The assessment should provide a full description of the principal risks to the project, an assessment of the adequacy of the contingency plans in the event of delay or failure, and an explanation for the rapid deterioration in the project's status over the space of two months.

I would be grateful if you could respond by 12 April to let me know when you expect this assessment to be complete.

I will be placing this letter, and your response, in the public domain.

Andrew Tyrie

PP RT HON ANDREW TYRIE MP
CHAIRMAN OF THE TREASURY COMMITTEE