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European Union Committee

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19 October 2018

Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Block, 2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear Thérèse,

EM 5846/18: Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast)

Thank you for your letter on the above Proposal, dated 26 September, which was considered by our Energy and Environment Sub-Committee at its meeting on 17 October.

In our last letter, we requested a summary of your outline impact assessment of the potential costs of the Proposal. We restate that request.

We also restate our request to be kept updated on discussions over the parameters that should be set by the Proposal.

Thank you for providing us with an update on the changes proposed by the Presidency to address subsidiarity concerns. We note that you welcome the changes, but that your concerns have been only partially addressed and so you await a revised compromise text. Please keep us updated on this issue.

We note that, in relation to risk assessments, your main concerns relate to the monitoring of new parameters and that you have written to the Presidency to request that the need to monitor is removed when there is little or no risk of a parameter being present. Have you received a reply?

We note that the requirement for domestic distribution risk assessments has been amended so that it only applies to large premises for public use and that this closely aligns with what water companies do currently.

We note that you are still considering the changes that the Presidency has put forward in relation to providing information to consumers and the public and look forward to receiving your assessment once completed.

We have decided to retain the Proposal under scrutiny and look forward to a response within 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, the Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee, Jessica Mulley, Clerk of the European Scrutiny Committee; Arnold Ridout, Legal Adviser to the European Scrutiny Committee; Les Saunders, DExEU, and John Leach and Craig White, Scrutiny Coordinators, DEFRA.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Boswell

Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chairman of the European Union Committee