



Department
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The Rt Hon Lord Boswell
Chairman
Select Committee on the European Union
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

15 November 2018

Dear Tim,

EM 5846/18, COM(2017) 753 FINAL: PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE QUALITY OF WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION (RECAST) (AND ADD 1-5)

Thank you for your letter dated 19 October. I acknowledge your request to be kept updated on discussions on drinking water quality parameters and subsidiarity. I also acknowledge that you are awaiting our assessment of the changes relating to providing information to consumers and the public as well as an outline of the potential costs of the Commission's proposal.

We are still considering the impacts of the proposal and will aim to provide our assessments before the end of March next year.

We await a revised compromise text from the Presidency to see if outstanding issues have been resolved, which includes our request on amending risk assessments so that new parameters can be removed from monitoring without the need to gather three years' worth of data. There has been no indication from the Presidency about when to expect this but we will provide an update once received.

We also want to inform you that, on 22 October during a plenary session, European Parliament agreed a compromise text for the Drinking Water Directive recast. Pressure is therefore mounting on the Presidency to agree a Council position to be able to move onto the next stage. However, the Austrian Presidency still do not regard the file as a priority and Romania, who take over the Presidency in January, are still deliberating their priorities. The timing of a general approach is therefore unclear and may not be reached before we leave the EU.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee. I am also copying this letter to the Clerks of the Commons and Lords Committees, Lynn Gardner and Chris Johnson respectively; Les Saunders, Department for Exiting the European Union; and Tess Hanneman, Defra Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

Yours sincerely,

Thérèse

DR THERESE COFFEY MP

