



**HOUSE OF LORDS**  
European Union Committee

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6 June 2018

Dr Thérèse Coffey MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

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 14 May, which was considered by our Energy and Environment Sub-Committee at its meeting on 6 June.

We note your preference for maintaining a risk-based approach to monitoring perfluorinated compounds, rather than adopting the levels recommended by the WHO or proposed by the Commission. Please keep us updated on your discussions with the Commission on this matter.

We note that you are still considering the potential impact of the draft Proposal's requirement for additional risk assessments. Please keep us updated on this, and on the evidence base used to reach your position on this element of the Proposal.

We note that you are still formulating your position on whether to support the requirements in the draft Proposal for additional information to be provided to consumers and the public. Again, please keep us updated on this.

We note your comments that the UK's current risk-based approach to water quality monitoring has not prevented the UK from achieving high standards of water quality and that, therefore, adopting the proposed EU standards would not be necessary to maintain that.

In addition to being kept updated on the three topics above, there were a number of other questions raised in our last letter that have yet to be addressed (as set out below). We

understand your department may not have made significant progress on some of these issues to-date; as the Proposal is due to be discussed at June Council we would ask that you provide an update on all these issues (and on the discussions at Council) after that meeting.

The additional questions raised in our 25 April letter that we would like a response to are:

- What is your assessment of the potential costs of implementing the Proposal?
- How are your negotiations with the Commission progressing, in relation to having the parameters in the Proposal set at the levels recommended by WHO (rather than the more stringent ones proposed by the Commission for some substances)?
- What discussions have taken place regarding the subsidiarity concerns raised by the House of Commons' European Scrutiny Committee?

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

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, the Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee, Philip Aylett, 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