



Department  
for Exiting the  
European Union

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Baroness Verma  
Chair of the EU External Affairs Sub-Committee  
House of Lords  
London SW1A 0PW

16 August 2017

Dear Baroness Verma

**Brexit: trade in goods**

I would like firstly to thank you for the report “Brexit: trade in goods” and for the continued valuable contribution of the EU External Affairs Sub-Committee to the work of the Department.

As you will be aware, the Government was subject to purdah restrictions meaning we were unable to publish select committee responses within the usual timeframe. I would nevertheless like to update you on the department’s upcoming publications which will likely be of interest to the Committee.

Yesterday the Government published the first in a series of papers on the new, deep and special partnership the UK wants to build with the EU. This first paper was on future customs arrangements. A further paper was published today, on Northern Ireland and Ireland. (Both these papers are attached.) As the negotiations proceed towards the autumn, the case for a more detailed discussion on that future relationship grows in importance. The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union has written to all parliamentary colleagues about this.

It is our intention that the Committee should receive the most up-to-date and comprehensive information possible and we intend to send you a response to the Committee’s report once all the policy papers have been published. The policy papers will address many aspects of your report and you may find them to be helpful in setting out the Government’s position in the meantime.



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We will of course continue to engage with Parliament throughout the negotiations. The Secretary of State will make an oral statement to the House of Commons after each negotiation round, which I will repeat in the House of Lords, and he fully intends to appear before the European Union Committee in the Autumn.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON BARONESS ANELAY OF ST JOHNS DBE**  
**MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION**

cc. Lord Jay of Ewelme