



HOUSE OF LORDS
European Union Committee

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 6083
Fax: 020 7219 6715
euclords@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

Caroline Nokes MP
Minister for Immigration
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

24 January 2018

Dear Caroline,

I am writing in reply to the letter received on 13 December 2017 from your predecessor Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, which provided the Government's response to the European Union Select Committee's report on Brexit and UK-EU movement of people.

I must begin by expressing the Committee's disappointment in the response. In addition to being months overdue, it failed directly to address any of our recommendations and conclusions numbered 8 – 20, and only partially addressed others. While I understand that the response was written prior to your appointment as Immigration Minister, and that the period of the delay included the 2017 General Election, I would ask for a further explanation as to why the response took so long.

We recognise that there will be some details of policy that are sensitive to the EU Exit negotiations, and which the Government is not in a position to reveal at this stage. However, the failure to address the majority of recommendations and conclusions is not acceptable. Parliament has a duty to scrutinise and hold the Government to account for decisions that will profoundly affect the people of the UK; we do not feel that the response provided enables us to adequately perform that role.

To that end, I ask that you specify which of the recommendations and conclusions you are not in a position to respond to at this time, and to respond directly to those recommendations where the Government can provide further details. I would also ask for clarification about exactly what the Government's 'red lines' on immigration consist of ahead of the forthcoming second stage of Brexit negotiations.

Lastly, your response does not make any mention of the joint report from the negotiators of the European Union and the United Kingdom Government on progress during phase I of negotiations, published on 8 December. I would invite you to explain the ramifications of the joint report for the upcoming negotiations on UK-EU movement of people.

I look forward to hearing from you within 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Lynn Gardner, Clerk to the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Arnold Ridout, Legal Adviser to the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Les Saunders, Department for Exiting the EU; and Alex Bernal, Home Office.

Michael Jay .

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Lord Jay of Ewelme
Chairman of the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee