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Lord Jay of Ewelme  
Acting Chair of the European Union Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

Dear Lord Jay

gth

September 2017

Thank you for your letter of 6 September.

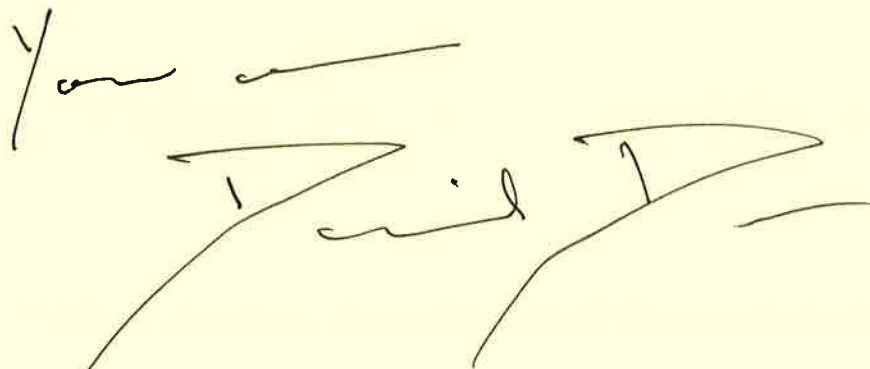
There is a lot of common ground between us. As a former committee chair myself, I share your assessment of the importance of your Committee fulfilling its scrutiny responsibilities. In that vein, my department and I fully support the work of committees in both Houses as they carry out inquiries on a broad range of EU-exit related topics.

It is no small commitment to update the House after each negotiation round and, no less importantly, to take questions from Members as I did once more on Tuesday. Likewise I remain committed to attending your Committee. In both of these fora I am happy to answer questions on the progress of the negotiations as well as on the broader issues you raise in your letter, such as the publication of position papers and the UK's continuing role in the EU institutions.

Baroness Anelay, with leave of the House, offers Lords this same opportunity when she repeats my statements in the House of Lords. I hope that members of the Committee find that valuable, but I hope too that all members of the House do, as it is designed to give an opportunity to all members to scrutinise progress in the negotiations.

You are right to acknowledge the complexity of the negotiations we are currently undertaking. Allowing for sufficient scrutiny of these negotiations is crucial; but the rigidity of providing for committee appearances at fixed intervals may run counter to the flexibility needed to ensure these negotiations are conducted successfully.

As you know, I have made clear my willingness to give evidence to the Committee once more in the autumn, following my previous appearance in July, and will revert to you when I can to confirm whether the date you have suggested will be possible in the light of the developing programme for the negotiations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Davis', written in a cursive style.

**RT HON DAVID DAVIS**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION**