Rt Hon David Davis MP
Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union
9 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AS

21 December 2017

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing further to my letter dated 29 November, to which I await your reply.

Since that letter was sent, our staff have reviewed the sectoral analyses in their entirety, and the Committee considered their assessment of the analyses at its meeting on 20 December.

Our assessment has identified a number of common themes:

- The sectoral analyses are variable in length and inconsistent in approach and in the use of statistics. There is double-counting of some sectors.
- The representation of stakeholder views is patchy. In some cases stakeholders are not representative; in others the stakeholder views appear to be drawn from evidence submitted to select committee inquiries, including inquiries by the EU Committee.
- Views on particular Brexit options, such as single market membership, differ across sectors, but in most cases there is a wish to minimise disruption and uncertainty.
- A number of themes recur in the views of stakeholders. These include: access to EU labour; the minimisation of tariffs and regulatory barriers to trade; data sharing; mutual recognition of qualifications; access to cross-border services; and the importance of EU R&D funding.
- There is little over-arching analysis by the Government: no conclusions are drawn with regard to the UK’s future relationship with the EU.
- We have not identified any material in the sectoral analyses that could be regarded as “negotiation sensitive”. Most stakeholder views are already in the public domain, including in committee inquiries and reports.

In light of these findings, we can see no reason why the sectoral analyses should not be published in full – they pose no risk to the UK’s negotiating position, and making them publicly available would, in our view, only promote an informed public debate on the options for Brexit. We understand that the House of Commons Exiting the EU Committee has decided to publish a redacted version of the documents. Nevertheless, we would urge you to publish them in full.
I look forward to your reply to this letter, and also to my letter of 29 November.

Lord Jay of Ewelme
Acting Chairman, House of Lords European Union Committee