



Department
for Exiting the
European Union

Permanent Secretary
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Chair, Select Committee on Exiting the European Union
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

13 December 2016

Dear Hilary,

**SELECT COMMITTEE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION: SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION**

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to host the Committee when it visited DExEU on 8 November. I hope you found the visit useful and that it will set a positive tone for the many engagements to come.

During the meeting, you asked for supplementary information on two issues: the policy areas on which we have been engaging with the three Devolved Administrations and the boards established by the department to coordinate plans for exit.

As regards the former question, the Prime Minister and leaders of the Devolved Administrations agreed in October to establish the Joint Ministerial Committee on EU Negotiations (JMC(EN)) as the focal point for the Government's engagement with the Devolved Administrations on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. I enclose the terms of reference for the group at Annex A.

At the first meeting of the group on 7 November, Ministers discussed Article 50, the JMC(EN) work programme and market access. At the second on 7 December, Ministers discussed their priorities relating to market access, law enforcement, security and criminal justice, civil judicial cooperation, immigration and trade. Officials from DExEU and across the wider UK Government have also been engaging bilaterally with the Devolved Administrations on all aspects of DExEU's work.

In response to your second question, I enclose a chart setting out the structure and remit of the relevant cross-government boards at Annex B.

The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union will be giving evidence at your Committee on 14 December but do let me know if you require any further information.

OLIVER ROBBINS CB

ANNEX A – Terms of Reference for the Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations) (JMC(EN))

Through the JMC(EN) the governments will work collaboratively to:

- discuss each government's requirements of the future relationship with the EU;
- seek to agree a UK approach to, and objectives for, Article 50 negotiations; and
- provide oversight of negotiations with the EU, to ensure, as far as possible, that outcomes agreed by all four governments are secured from these negotiations; and,
- discuss issues stemming from the negotiation process which may impact upon or have consequences for the UK Government, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government or the Northern Ireland Executive.

Annex B - Boards established by the Department for Exiting the European Union

