



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

020 7219 5777 - beiscom@parliament.uk - www.parliament.uk/beis - @CommonsBEIS

Richard Harrington MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Business and Industry

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

4th December 2018

Dear Richard,

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to follow-up on our inquiry "Brexit and the implications for UK business: Civil nuclear sector".

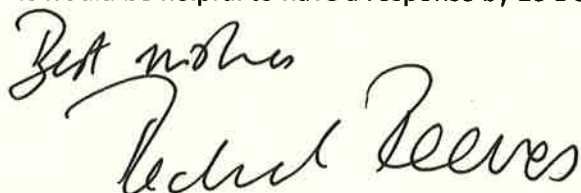
First, we would like to welcome the priority that the Government has given to addressing concerns about the civil nuclear sector raised by our Committee, and others, with regards to the UK's departure from the EU and Euratom. Progress in signing safeguards agreements with the IAEA, in developing nuclear cooperation agreements (NCAs) with key trading partners, and in recruiting and training new safeguards inspectors, together provide an encouraging indication that the UK may be able to maintain adequate safeguards and trading arrangements, provided that the EU Withdrawal Agreement is agreed by the House. We also welcome the Government's provision of quarterly updates about progress on Euratom to Parliament.

However, several key issues affecting the civil nuclear sector remain unresolved, both regarding our ongoing relationship with Euratom and the EU, and the Government's plans for civil nuclear in the event of a 'no deal' scenario. We note industry concerns that it would not be possible to implement new NCAs in full by 29 March 2019, should there be no deal and thus no transition period, putting ongoing operation of the UK's nuclear power stations at risk. Please could you therefore provide the Committee with the following information:

- Confirmation of whether the Government still intends to deliver on its previous commitment to maintain safeguards at the more stringent levels set by Euratom, and if this is no longer the intention, an explanation for this change in policy.
- What plans are there to make up for reduced access to EU R&D funding for future innovation projects *beyond 2020*? Please include plans for the types of project that are at present be covered by the Horizon 2020 programme, and conditions under which the Government would choose to continue funding for the JET facility at Culham.
- Given the loss of the UK's membership of Fusion for Energy, what will the Government do to ensure that: UK businesses can bid for contracts on the ITER project, UK scientists are able to utilise the ITER facility for research, and that the UK retains access to any technologies developed as a result of the ITER project?

- Do you still intend to seek a “Close Association” with Euratom that includes all the functions highlighted in the July 2018 Brexit White Paper?¹ What indications have you had from Euratom that such an Association can be achieved? If a wide ranging ‘Close Association’ is not possible, will you seek a separate deal with Euratom specifically for research?
- What plans have you made to ensure that nuclear power stations, and the wider civil nuclear sector, can continue to function from 29 March 2019 if a broader deal for the UK’s separation from the EU is not agreed by the House and if there is no transition period? Will you seek a separate deal with Euratom in the event of a ‘no deal’ scenario?
- Has the Department made any plans to facilitate construction of newbuild nuclear, should the delayed Migration White Paper not allow for the free flow of migrant labour, which has proven essential for the construction of major facilities such as Hinkley Point C?

It would be helpful to have a response by 18 December.

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

Rachel Reeves MP

Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

¹ HM Government, [‘The future relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union’](#), July 2018, paragraphs 143-144.