



# Committee on Exiting the European Union

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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Rt Hon David Lidington MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London SW1A 2AS

17 June 2019

Dear David,

The Committee on Exiting the EU made a number of requests last year for publication of the mapping exercise on areas of North-South cooperation on the island of Ireland and were assured by successive Secretaries of State for Exiting the EU that it would be shared with the Committee when negotiations on it had concluded. A Technical Note on the exercise was eventually sent to me on 7 December and published that day. The Clerk to the Committee has recently been provided by a member of the public with a substantially fuller document, which appears to constitute the mapping exercise as it existed at the time of the Joint Report in December 2017, together with a draft UK Government non-paper to support scoping work on healthcare, which were provided to that individual subsequent to requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I enclose a copy of the documents which I understand have been supplied by the Cabinet Office.

I intend to provide the documents to the Committee on Wednesday morning and the Committee will then need to consider how to proceed. However, I did not wish to do so without confirming the provenance and status of the documents with you.

I will be proposing to the Committee that it report the documents to the House and publish them but that, if the Government intends to publish them itself, the Committee would have no objection.

I am copying this letter to Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP, the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with a reply by 4pm tomorrow afternoon so that the Committee can consider this matter at its meeting on Wednesday morning.

**Hilary Benn**  
Chair of the Committee