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

18 June 2019

Dear Hilary

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2019.

I can confirm that the documents in question were released following a Freedom of Information Act 2000 request. These documents formed part of initial scoping work that was undertaken by the UK Government, supported by the Northern Ireland Civil Service, and the European Commission and Ireland, in Autumn 2017.

The outcome of this work was the 7 December 2018 publication, which consisted of a list of current areas of North-South cooperation discussed and agreed with the European Commission and the Government of Ireland in 2017 as the foundation of the mapping exercise, as well as a summary report. This publication can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-explanatory-note-north-south-cooperation-mapping-exercise>.

The documents in question were produced as part of a scoping exercise, and as such were always intended to form the basis of discussion and not final products. The Government, therefore, does not intend to publish them separately from the final list and summary report of 7 December 2018. On this occasion, however, we can confirm that the documents you attached were produced by the Government.

Yours,

Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP