



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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Rt Hon David Davis MP
Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union
9 Downing Street
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1 August 2017

Dear David

Many thanks for your letter dated 28 July, in response to my letter of 19 July.

I regret that you have declined to appear before the Committee on 9 August, and that you have not responded to my suggestion that, if you were personally unavailable, you could send a colleague to give evidence on the second round of negotiations.

As the European Union Committee has stated in two published reports, effective parliamentary scrutiny of the Brexit negotiations is essential to ensure an appropriate level of transparency and accountability, and thus to help achieve the best possible outcome for the whole of the United Kingdom.

To be effective, scrutiny should adjust to the timetable of the negotiations themselves, not to the convenience of parliamentary recesses. Your reason for refusing to attend the Committee (because the suggested date 'falls during summer recess') is thus, in our view, inadequate.

I note your offer to appear before the Committee in October, but, as stated in my earlier letter, the Committee will meet on Tuesday 12 September, at 4 pm, to review progress in the third round of negotiations. We expect you to attend that meeting, or, if you are unavailable, to send a ministerial colleague, or either Oliver Robbins or Sir Tim Barrow. If the time proposed is unsuitable (for instance, because you are speaking in the House of Commons on that day) we will of course be happy to find an alternative time in the week beginning 11 September.

Finally, I note that you have not answered either of the follow-up questions in my letter, even though you volunteered to provide written information on both issues during your evidence on 11 July. I am, however, content to wait until your next appearance before the Committee to pursue the question of access to documents.

But on a separate but important point, you offered on 11 July to let us know in writing how many women were on the Brexit negotiating team. You have not done so, and I would be grateful if you could now answer this question.

Yours ever

Lord Jay of Ewelme, on behalf of Lord Boswell of Aynho