Dear Joan,

Thank you for your letter of 10 March highlighting the publication of the Committee’s report, *Determining Scotland’s future relationship with the European Union*. I was grateful to have the opportunity to appear before the Committee as you took evidence for your report and I would be pleased to appear before you again in the coming months.

Since the publication of your report, as you know the Prime Minister has notified President Tusk under Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union of the United Kingdom’s intention to withdraw from the European Union. In addition, the UK Government has published a White Paper on *Legislating for the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union*. I attach a copy of the Prime Minister’s letter and of the White Paper to my letter.

During my appearance we spoke about the intensive engagement that has taken place between the UK and Scottish Governments in the period before the triggering of Article 50. The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union has written to the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland’s Place in Europe following the Scottish Government’s White Paper *Scotland’s Place in Europe*.

There are many areas of common ground we have identified between the two governments as we move into the next phase of the process of leaving the European Union. These include our objectives of achieving the freest and most frictionless trade with the EU, that workers’ rights will be protected and enhanced as we leave the EU, and that our exit should not lead to an erosion of environmental standards.

We will continue to work closely with the Scottish Government and Parliament to deliver an approach to returning powers from the EU that works for the whole of the UK and reflects the interests of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is the expectation of the Government that the outcome of this process will be a significant increase in the decision-making power of each devolved administration.

I am committed to on-going engagement with the Committee throughout this process and I hope the Committee finds this information helpful.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rt Hon DAVID MUNDELL MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND