The potential effects of the end of EU membership on People’s Postcode Lottery.

We fund over 60 medium and large charities operating in or from the UK, as well as over 2,000 smaller charities and community organisations. We work closely with the organisations we fund and we are aware of increased concern about the potential impact of Brexit on crucial funding for charities.

For example a survey by the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations of its members found that half of those responding receive funding from the EU and more than 30% said that their funding was at risk as a result of Brexit.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations has estimated that in 2013/14 charities received £308 million in direct funding from the EU. Similar estimates have been made by the Charity Finance Group who evaluate that UK charities will lose around £200 million a year in EU funding.

Many of our supported charities could be directly impacted, and as a result of the loss of EU funding there will be even more pressure on other funding sources, such as that provided by our players.

We are also concerned that any economic downturn will impact on charitable giving by members of the public, at the same time as increasing need for the services charities provide.

The decline in the value of the pound will also mean a reduction in the value of funds spent overseas, for example by charities working in the international development sector.

In the debate on the impact of Brexit in both the UK and Scotland it essential that the potential impact on charities is considered and action is taken to ensure that EU funding to charities is replaced by UK funding.