



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rt. Hon David Mundell MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
UK Government

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16 February 2018

Dear Secretary of State,

EU Exit Analysis

I am writing to you in relation to the EU Exit Analysis that has been provided to the House of Commons Exiting the EU Committee and the House of Lords EU Select Committee.

When you gave evidence to my Committee on 2 November 2017, in response to a question that I asked you about whether the UK Government's sectoral analysis on the impact of Brexit would be shared with the House of Commons Exiting the EU Committee, you said:

“The Government had previously indicated that such assessments and analyses had been made. I will make one clarification in relation to some media reports that there is a Scotland-specific analysis. There is not a Scotland-specific analysis; there is analysis of how those sectors apply within Scotland.”

In your subsequent letter to the Committee of 22 November 2017, you also stated:

“It is important to note that the information that the Government has does not comprise now, and never has done, quantitative forecasts of impact—not on sectors and not on any nation or region.”

In the figures made public by the BBC from the UK Government assessment of Brexit deals on economic growth over 15 years compared to current forecasts, Brexit is assessed in relation to 12 geographical areas within the UK, including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Some MSPs, including myself, have now viewed the analysis papers at The Scotland Office in Edinburgh. I would be grateful if you could explain why you told the committee in November that such analysis did not exist.

I would also be grateful if you could clarify to the Committee the extent to which the UK Government has carried out an economic assessment of the impact of Brexit on Scotland. Specifically, whether this is the only report that includes consideration of the impact of Brexit on Scotland or whether any others have been prepared by the UK Government; what future scenarios have been considered; whether you intend to prepare a specific forecast for Scotland once the UK Government has agreed its final position on the future relationship that it seeks with the EU; whether you have assessed or will assess the implications of Brexit at a regional level within Scotland, and how the conclusions of this report or any other reports have contributed to your representation of Scotland's interests in any Cabinet discussions or meetings that you have been party to on the UK's future relationship with the UK.

At the Committee's meeting on 8 February, we also agreed to invite you to give evidence to the Committee on the UK Government's approach to Brexit, particularly how the transitional arrangements would impact on Scotland and the future relationship that the UK will seek with the EU. The Committee hopes that this will be possible and looks forward to engaging with you again. My clerks will be in touch with your office to identify a potential date for the evidence session.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan McAlpine', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joan McAlpine MSP
Convener
European and External Relations Committee