

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel (020) 7219 3292 Email escom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk/escom

From: Sir William Cash MP

7 May 2020

Victoria Prentis MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

7153/20 Proposal for a Regulation as regards specific measures to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector (41170)

We have considered your Explanatory Memorandum of 23 April 2020 on the above document.

We note your view that the impact of this measure in the UK is likely to be limited as there is very little budget left in the EMFF programme, and we also note that the Devolved Administrations and England have put in place separate support measures to support the industry in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

We ask you to set out, within four weeks:

- the progress of your work with the Devolved Administrations to assess the potential for using the proposed flexibility in the EMFF, including whether any funds might become available through the abandonment of currently planned projects;
- any concerns that you have identified, and raised with the Commission, about how the flexibility will work;
- how the various different funding options — EU and national/regional — are being communicated to potential beneficiaries; and

- whether any of the UK administrations might take advantage of the storage aid in order to remove surplus product from the market and place it into cold storage.

We are copying this letter to the Earl of Kinnoull, Chair of the EU Select Committee in the House of Lords and Christopher Johnson, Clerk of the Lords EU Select Committee; Neil Parish MP, Chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee; your Departmental EU Scrutiny team; and Les Saunders and Donald Harris in the Cabinet Office.

CHAIR