

European Scrutiny Committee

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From: Sir William Cash MP

4 June 2020

Rt Hon. Steve Barclay MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
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Transparency of the UK's post-Brexit contributions to the EU

Thank you for your letter of 14 May in relation to the transparency of the UK's payments to the EU under the terms of its financial settlement as set out in the Withdrawal Agreement.

The Committee is grateful for your commitments in relation to the publication of an annual estimate of the net cost of the settlement and its various components, including the special "off-budget" instruments and penalties imposed by the EU Court of Justice, via the annual EU Finances Statement produced by your Department. We look forward to receiving a copy of the latest Statement in the near future.

In relation to the work of the Specialised UK-EU Committee on financial provisions, we note that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 5 May said the Government "will do everything [it] can to update the Commons" on the work of the UK Government on the specialised committee "and allow it to interrogate the approach that we and the EU are taking". The Committee will follow up on this with the Cabinet Office where appropriate.

The Committee also continues to take a close interest in the Government's discussions with the European Commission on the size of any future UK financial contribution to the EU budget in return for continued British participation in EU programmes such as the Framework Programme for Research, and the powers of the EU institutions with respect to the UK under such an arrangement. Your Department's response to our queries on this matter to date has been disappointing, but we will continue to pursue this matter with you separately, as set out in our letter of 21 May 2020.

CHAIR