

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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From: Sir William Cash MP

11 June 2020

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

Future of the Common Agricultural Policy (Council documents 9645/18, 9634/18 and 9556/18) (39830-2)

We have considered your letter dated 27 April 2020.

Concerning the impact of the future Common Agricultural Policy on Northern Ireland, we note your comments on the decision to be taken by the Joint Committee concerning an upper limit on agricultural support in Northern Ireland and we look forward to further information in due course on that decision.

We were disappointed that your letter was silent on other ways in which the future CAP may affect Northern Ireland, such as the requirement to apply some marketing rules under the Common Market Organisation Regulation. Amendments to that Regulation — with parts of which Northern Ireland must comply — form part of the CAP reform package. We therefore reiterate our request for information on the implications for Northern Ireland of the CAP proposals, with specific reference to the obligation under Annex 2 of the Withdrawal Agreement for Northern Ireland to comply with elements of Part II — and all of Part III — of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.¹

Given that the proposals on the future of the CAP include legislative amendments which Northern Ireland will have to apply, we invite you again to

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products.

inform us how you are monitoring those negotiations and continuing to represent the interests of Northern Ireland.

We ask for a response within ten working days.

We are copying this letter to Simon Hoare MP, Chair of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee and Nicholas Beech, Clerk of the Committee; Rt Hon. Hilary Benn MP and Gordon Clarke, Clerk of the Committee; 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; your Departmental EU Scrutiny team; and Les Saunders and Donald Harris in the Cabinet Office.

CHAIR