



Rt. Hon. Jacob Rees-Mogg M.P.
Minister for Brexit Opportunities and Government Efficiency
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Sir William Cash M.P.
Chair, European Scrutiny Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our reference: MC2022/06978

By email: ESCOM@parliament.uk

21 April 2022

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 27 January to the Prime Minister, regarding the reviews of retained EU law. I am responding as Minister with oversight of the Government's reviews of retained EU law (REUL) and the 'Brexit Freedoms' Bill. I apologise for my belated response, your letter was sent to the Prime Minister before my Ministerial appointment and has only just reached my office.

The work of the REUL reviews has progressed significantly since I became the Minister for Brexit Opportunities and Government efficiency and it is now nearly complete. This work has successfully resulted in establishing an authoritative baseline of all the REUL held by departments across Whitehall, and has been instrumental in informing the issues with REUL that the 'Brexit Freedoms' Bill will seek to address. I am committed to ensuring that the public can hold the Government accountable for REUL reform and therefore intend to publish the full list of REUL still on the UK statute book. I will ensure this list is published before I introduce the Bill.

Following the conclusion of the REUL substance review, my officials are engaged in a REUL status review which seeks to consider the type of REUL that is on the UK's statute book, the status it holds and how it affects and interacts with our own legislation. This review is also feeding into the 'Brexit Freedoms' Bill and will play a crucial role in informing the content of the Bill. This review will be completed prior to the introduction of the Bill.

I have been leading on the content of the Bill and have been working closely with the Attorney General. I am in agreement that the Attorney General's involvement is not only instrumental to the Bill, but is also necessary due to its constitutional elements. To this end, she and I hold fortnightly meetings on the content of the Bill and will continue to do so as we progress towards introduction.

I would like to thank you for the keen interest and support I have received from you and the European Scrutiny Committee; I was glad I had the chance to share our progress on the Bill at the Committee on 20 April and I would, of course, be happy to discuss any of this further with you or other Committee members.

With every good wish,

*Yours sincerely,
Jacob*