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20th June 2022

EU PROPOSED DIRECTIVE ON CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY DUE DILIGENCE

Thank you for your letter dated 31 May 2022 regarding the European Commission's proposal for a Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence.

I will stay in touch with the Committee about this draft Directive as it progresses through the EU's negotiation process. I also agree that the UK should and will look to communicate our views in the light of developments, as far as we can as a trading partner, through our channels in Brussels. However, I need to manage expectations about providing updated assessment of UK business impacts and costs from the measure. It is unlikely that we would be able to offer further cost estimates or insights; not unless the requirements in the draft Directive were to change radically during negotiation.

The European Commission has given no indication of whether it considers final EU legislation along the lines of its proposal is within scope of the Northern Ireland Protocol. Given the draft Directive is at an early stage for negotiation in the EU, I do not intend to give a view on how it might interact with the Protocol at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Martin Callanan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lord Callanan