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for Environment  
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Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP  
Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
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2 September 2020

Dear Phillip,

I am writing to provide an update to you following George Eustice's letter to you of 4 August about the future of UK chemicals regulation at the end of the Transition Period.

I wanted to let you know of changes we plan to make to the deadlines for businesses to provide the data to support their registrations under UK REACH. This reflects concerns raised about the 2-year data submission deadlines in the current UK REACH transitional arrangements. It follows on from our evidence gathering exercise involving stakeholders, from industry and NGOs to better understand the costs associated with UK REACH and identify practical ideas to reduce the burdens to business.

The principle of "no data, no market" is central to UK and EU REACH. The provision of data to the regulator gives public assurance that industry understands the risks of the chemicals they use and gives the UK regulators a full evidence base to inform future regulatory decisions. Therefore, in considering the findings from the evidence gathering exercise we looked at options which would enable industry to mitigate costs without reducing important environmental and health protections.

We have concluded that the most effective way of achieving this is to extend the transitional data submission timetable in a phased, risk-based, manner. This also reflects suggestions made by industry. I have therefore announced our intention to extend the existing registration deadlines set in legislation (subject to parliamentary and devolved administration scrutiny) as follows:

- Extend the initial notification stage for downstream users from 180 to 300 days post 1 January 2021, so they have the opportunity to assess how existing EU REACH registrants met the 120-day deadline before starting their own 180-day process.
  - This should help reduce the numbers of downstream users needing to notify as they will have time to see if their suppliers have already registered.
- Extend the deadline for completing a full registration supported by full data packages to 2, 4 and 6 years from the end of the initial 300 day period (according to tonnage bands and hazard profile, highest tonnage and most hazardous chemicals first).
  - This will allow more time for industry (UK and EU) to work together on ensuring fair and equitable data access to reduce or eliminate costs stemming from their commercial agreements.

We continue to pursue a negotiated deal on data sharing with the EU which would mitigate the need for industry to provide full data packages for existing registrations and offer benefits to both UK and EU businesses. Irrespective of the outcome of the negotiations, chemicals manufacturers and importers would still need to provide UK authorities the same information required in the 120-day and 300-day deadlines. Therefore, I would urge businesses to continue their preparations so they will be ready for 1 January 2021.

To help them do this we have published guidance [here](#) which includes details of the changes to the deadlines. We will keep this guidance under review and update it to take account of further developments.

I am also copying this letter to the Chair of the HoL EU Environment Sub-Committee. I know that both Committees continue to show a strong interest in the work we are doing to establish our own independent regulatory framework for chemicals.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Pow', written in a cursive style.

**REBECCA POW MP**