

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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From: Sir William Cash MP

10 September 2020

Rt Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP

Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

1 Victoria Street

London SW1H 0ET

COM (2020) 301: Commission Communication — A hydrogen strategy for a climate-neutral Europe (41389)

We have considered your Explanatory Memorandum on the above document.

The lack of analysis was very disappointing and has rendered our task of scrutinising your approach impossible. We consider that the Strategy may at least have regulatory implications for Northern Ireland, with wider strategic — and potentially regulatory — implications for the whole of the UK.

We therefore ask that, within ten working days, you provide a comprehensive analysis to include, as a minimum:

- the strategic relevance of this policy development to the UK;
- any potential regulatory implications, both for Northern Ireland and for the UK more widely;
- the potential for research cooperation in this area given the UK's negotiating ambition to seek association to the Horizon Europe programme;
- the extent to which the EU's high-level policy direction in this area aligns with that of the UK; and
- the UK's likely response to any "diplomatic outreach" from the EU in this area.

I am copying this letter to Darren Jones MP, Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee and Rebecca Davies, Clerk of the Committee; Simon Hoare MP, Chair of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee and Nicholas Beech, Clerk of the Committee; Lord Kinnoull, Chair of the House of Lords European Union Committee, and Chris Johnson, Clerk of the Committee; Les Saunders at the Cabinet Office; and the EU scrutiny team in your Department.

CHAIR