



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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30 September 2020

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

Dear Victoria,

EM 7707/20: PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) NO 1305/2013 AS REGARDS SPECIFIC MEASURES TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL TEMPORARY SUPPORT UNDER EAFRD IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Thank you for your letter on the above Proposal dated 3 August, which was considered by our Environment Sub-Committee on 30 September 2020.

Thank you for your clarification that funds unspent at the end of the budget cycle would be lost, but that all four parts of the UK are seeking to spend their full allocation.

We note your statement that the Scottish Government has decided not to make use of the measure, and that it is still subject to consideration in the other parts of the UK, but none of the relevant departments have received representations from the farming industry asking for the flexibility to be used. Thank you for your explanation of the domestic alternatives that have been established by the devolved administrations and by Defra.

We are now content to close this correspondence.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons Committee; Les Saunders, Cabinet Office; and John Leach, Departmental Scrutiny Coordinator.

Lord Kinnoull

Chair of the European Union Committee