



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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30 September 2020

Mims Davies MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Work and Pensions
4th floor
Caxton House
6-12 Tothill Street
SW1H 9DA

Dear Mims,

Post-Brexit Nuclear Safeguards

Office for Nuclear Regulation: Brexit preparedness

As you will be aware, the UK is withdrawing from the Euratom Treaty and thus from 1 January 2021 the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) will be responsible for ensuring the UK complies with its international safeguarding obligations. We are writing to seek an update on the ONR's preparedness to take on this role, and have three specific questions.

First, Dr Mina Golshan (in her then-role as Deputy Chief Inspector) stated in July 2018 that it was the ONR's goal to recruit and train 14 new safeguarding inspectors in order for the organisation to fulfil its new role,⁶ and that it takes 12-18 months "to train a specialist to become an inspector".⁷ Have all of the necessary new staff been recruited, and is their training now complete?

Second, as of mid-2018 the ONR was developing a new IT system (the Safeguards Information Management and Reporting System, or SIMRS) to allow it to submit the necessary information to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and expected it to be operational by March 2019. Is that IT system now fully-functional, and have the necessary users been trained in how it operates?

And third, how will the ONR's new safeguarding function initially be funded as of 1 January 2021, and what plans do you have to alter that approach in the medium term?

When we last corresponded with Government on these issues it was in the context of a possible 'no deal' exit in March 2019, and we were assured that preparations were in hand for

that eventuality. In light of the further eighteen months of preparation time, we look forward to being reassured on each of the points above. Please respond by 14 October.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robn' or 'Robn.', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lord Teverson

Chair of the European Union Environment Sub-Committee