

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel (020) 7219 3292 Email escom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk/escom

From: Sir William Cash MP

8 October 2020

Luke Hall MP

Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London SW1P 4DF

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Proposals for Regulations on EU structural funds post-2020 (39801, 39807, 39808, 39811) (EU documents 9511/18, 9522/18, 9573/18, and 9536/18)

We have considered your letter of 3 September.

The continued failure to set out any details of the Shared Prosperity Fund remains a source of frustration, as also reflected in the letter dated 17 September 2020 from the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee to the Secretary of State (Rt Hon. Robert Jenrick MP). As a Committee, we believe that we can serve a useful function of assessing the proposed Fund against the current and future EU structural funds. We therefore look forward to seeing the details of the Fund as soon as possible.

Turning to future UK involvement in European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, we note that you are unable to share the Government's value-for-money assessment. We are aware that the Devolved Administrations do not share your position on UK participation, taking the contrary view that UK involvement would be beneficial, and we therefore suggest that publication of the assessment might help to secure UK-wide consensus on this matter. It would be helpful to know if you have endeavoured to secure such consensus, what discussions you have had with the Devolved Administrations on this matter and if you have indeed shared your analysis as part of any such discussions.

On PEACE PLUS specifically, we look forward to an update in due course on the outcome, or progress, of negotiations with the EU concerning that Programme.

We request a response within three weeks.

We are copying this letter to Clive Betts MP, Chair of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee and Mike Winter, Clerk of the Committee; Simon Hoare MP, Chair of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee and Nicholas Beech, Clerk of the Committee; Rt Hon. Stephen Crabb MP, Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee and Adam Evans, Clerk of the Committee; Pete Wishart MP, Chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee and Leoni Kurt, Clerk of the Committee; Rt Hon. Hilary Benn MP, Chair of the Future Relationship with the EU Committee and Gordon Clarke, Clerk of the Committee; the Earl of Kinnoull, Chair of the EU Select Committee in the House of Lords and Christopher Johnson, Clerk of the Committee; your Departmental EU Scrutiny team; and Les Saunders and Donald Harris in the Cabinet Office.

CHAIR