



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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Rt Hon. John Whittingdale OBE MP
Minister of State for Media and Data
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

23 July 2020

Lord Bethell of Romford
Minister for Innovation
Department for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

Dear John and James,

C(2020)2296 : COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION on a common Union toolbox for the use of technology and data to combat and exit from the COVID-19 crisis, in particular concerning mobile applications and the use of anonymised mobility data

C(2020)2523 : COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION: Guidance on apps supporting the fight against COVID 19 pandemic in relation to data protection

Thank you for your letter of 13 July on the above files. The EU Services Sub-Committee considered the letter at its meeting on 21 July 2020 and decided to retain the file under examination.

We note that the Government is seeking to bring together the NHSx app and the Google/Apple API. Can you provide some further information about the ways in which you are planning to build upon the Google/Apple API? Could these changes affect the interoperability of the app?

In what ways is the Government seeking to use international cooperation to encourage innovation in other areas where there are opportunities for digital solutions, for example in testing?

The Committee is very concerned about the delay in the implementation of the app and would welcome updates from the Government.

We look forward to your response within 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Baroness Harding, Chair of NHS Improvement; Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons Committee; Les Saunders, Cabinet Office, and Ellie Martin, Scrutiny Coordinator, Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Kinnoull', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lord Kinnoull
Chair of the European Union Committee