



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
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1 December 2020

Dear Alok,

We are disappointed at your refusal to attend a hearing with the BEIS Committee to discuss Business preparedness for Brexit.

UK businesses are facing unprecedented challenges in dealing with the impact of Covid 19 and in preparing for the end of the UK's Transition Period -now only 31 days away.

We extended the invitation to give evidence on 16 November and have shown considerable flexibility in seeking to find a suitable date before the end of the Transition Period.

It is this Committee's role to conduct proper scrutiny of the BEIS Department. Timely consideration of Government activity is imperative to ensuring we continue to carry out this role. While we appreciate you are working "across the breadth of the UK to ensure that businesses are prepared for the end of the Transition Period" this only further highlights the time critical nature of this evidence session and the urgent need for scrutiny to ensure everything possible is being done to support Business in these last crucial weeks.

It is a matter of deep regret to the Committee that you are refusing to accept our invitation to have this important conversation. We urge you to re-consider.

Darren Jones MP
Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee