

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

3 December 2020

Rt Hon. Jesse Norman MP
Financial Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

Customs fraud at UK ports: update on EU legal case against the UK

As you will hopefully be aware, the European Scrutiny Committee has consistently taken a close interest in the legal case lodged before the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) by the European Commission in relation to allegations of widespread customs undervaluation fraud on Chinese textiles imported via UK ports.¹

We understand the CJEU has recently announced it will hear arguments in the case on 8 December this year. The Committee has asked me to write to you to reiterate its continued interest in the Commission's case against the UK, and we would be grateful if you could provide an update on this matter when the Court delivers its ruling in due course.

I am copying this letter to the Rt. Hon Mel Stride MP, Chair of the Treasury Committee and Gosia McBride, Clerk of that Committee; to Meg Hillier MP, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee and Richard Cooke, Clerk of that Committee; to Lord Kinnoull and Christopher Johnson in the Lords; and to Victor Peluola and Patrick Lynch at your Department.

CHAIR

¹ Case C-213/19. The previous Committee reported the matter to the House on two occasions on [29 November 2017](#) and [24 January 2018](#), and wrote to your predecessor as Financial Secretary with respect to the undervaluation dispute on 5 September and 22 October 2018.