

# European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From: Sir William Cash MP

19 April 2023

Rt Hon. Kemi Badenoch MP  
Secretary of State for Business and Trade,  
Department for Business and Trade  
1 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET

## **Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill**

Dear Kemi

Thank you for your letter of 9 March. We were pleased to hear “the Government is committed to taking full advantage of our regulatory freedoms post-Brexit, including through the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill”. We agree, the REUL(R&R) Bill is important Government policy, the progress of which we have followed closely since February last year.

We reported on the future of retained EU law ahead of the Bill’s introduction, and two of our Members were part of the Bill’s Public Bill Committee. We enjoyed a good working relationship with your predecessors and the majority of our recommendations concerning the future of retained EU law were given effect to in the Bill.<sup>1</sup> It is notable that the Bill passed its Second Reading in the elected House of Commons with a majority of 55 and was not amended in Committee, nor has it been in the Lords.

It was therefore with concern that we learned the Bill’s Lords Report stage and Third Reading will now not take place this week and next. As far as we are aware, the Bill’s remaining Lords stages are yet to be rearranged. We seek further information on the reasons for this delay and the Government’s timetable for the Bill’s progress, up to Royal Assent.

We remind you of the December 2023 ‘sunset’ for the automatic revocation of (the majority of) retained EU law. If the most is to be made of Brexit for the people and businesses of the United Kingdom, the passage of the Bill

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<sup>1</sup> European Scrutiny Committee, [‘Retained EU law: Where next?’](#), Fifth Report of Session 2022-23, 21 July 2022, HC 122

must be prioritised. We see no good reason why the Bill should not be back in the Commons shortly.

We are also awaiting your response to our letter of 31 March inviting you to give evidence before the Committee on the Bill and the Government's 'Brexit opportunities' work. This letter followed our invitation of 24 February.

**CHAIR**