

Sir William Cash MP
House of Commons
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Dear Sir Bill,

I am writing to provide you with an update on progress since the enactment of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023. There has been significant work on the review and assimilation, reform and repeal of Retained EU Law (REUL). Government plans for this ongoing programme are advancing and we are fully committed to realising the opportunities that the REUL Act provides.

Taking into account your suggestions, the Smarter Regulation programme will be led by a central figure with the authority to drive action across government. I have asked the Minister for Regulatory Reform, whom you met recently, to take on this role and keep in contact with you. He has continued to meet various organisations and Ministers to discuss key opportunities for reform and to understand their concerns over regulation. It has become clear to me that securing cooperation at ministerial level will be critical in driving other government departments to deliver the regulatory changes we both wish to see.

As you are aware, and in no small part due to concerns raised by your committee on ensuring that this process is carried out thoroughly, the Act contains a reporting requirement. The first reporting period ends on 23 December 2023. My officials have already begun work on collating the information for that report and have liaised with Clerks of the European Scrutiny Committee to better understand the Committee's priorities. The report will be detailed and thorough and will ensure you have the opportunity for detailed scrutiny of the government's progress in reforming, repealing and restating Retained EU Law.

The programme is concerned with reforming the stock of REUL and wider domestic regulation, reducing the flow of new regulations and ensuring the wider regulatory landscape is effective and proportionate. We are committed to a series of announcements throughout the year. We already launched consultations on reforming REUL on employment; wine regulations and product safety (including the introduction of 'e-labelling'). We also announced the indefinite extension of the CE mark, a pro-consumer policy that supports open trade while allowing us to advance our own UKCA certification. We are committed to ensuring the wider regulatory landscape works as well as it can, and

have launched consultations on a strategic steer for the CMA; a strategy and policy statement for Energy policy and extension of the regulator growth duty to Ofgem, Ofwat and Ofcom.

Listening to businesses and wider stakeholders is central to the Smarter Regulation Programme. On 2 August 2023, we began a three-week series of official-led roundtables to discuss product regulation with major businesses. All of these are part of important stakeholder engagement to ensure that the reformed regulatory framework is one which works for UK businesses, consumers and the UK economy.

I am aware of your interest in a common law approach to regulation. I have asked officials to consider such an approach within the context of reducing burdens on businesses and future proofing our approach to regulation. My officials are working with departments and are considering reducing prescriptive codification and will seek to identify cases where this would deliver better outcomes. The detail of the reforms we undertake is, of course, subject to the outcome of consultations and government decision-making. However, I assure you that specifics of the proposals and the resulting SI programmes will be shared when appropriate.

Following the publication of the Taskforce for Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform (TIGRR) report in June 2021, the Brexit Opportunities Unit has worked with departments to progress the proposed reforms from the report. As of January 2023, 15 of the TIGRR proposals have been delivered with a further 35 on track. I have asked the Minister for Regulatory Reform to take a particular interest in progress here.

Thank you for your continued engagement in the work that is being done on REUL reform, and we will continue to provide you with updates as the work continues to progress.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kemi Badenoch'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of 'Kemi' and 'Badenoch' being capitalized and prominent.

THE RT HON KEMI BADENOCH MP

Secretary of State for Business & Trade and President of the Board of Trade and
Minister for Women & Equalities