



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Affairs Committee

House of Lords
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Stephen Doughty MP
Minister of State for Europe, North America and Overseas
Territories
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
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Dear Minister,

In April, your predecessor as Minister for Europe, Nusrat Ghani MP, wrote to us to state that the EU Commission had initiated the first stage of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement's dispute resolution process in relation to "HMG and Scottish Government measures" that ban Sandeel fishing in the English North Sea and Scottish Waters.

She also undertook to provide updates "as the case progresses". To date, we have received no further information and note that in late October it appears that the dispute moved to the next stage with the Commission requesting the establishment of an arbitration panel. In light of these events, we would welcome your update on this dispute including: when you anticipate the arbitration panel will be established; its membership; the predicted timetable for it to begin its deliberations; and, when you expect it to deliver its decision.

We look forward to considering your response within the usual 10-day deadline.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Ricketts, Chair of the European Affairs Committee