



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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Lord Bethell of Romford
Minister for Innovation
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
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11 February 2021

Dear James,

C(2020)2296 : COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION on a common Union toolbox for the use of technology and data to combat and exit from the COVID-19 crisis, in particular concerning mobile applications and the use of anonymised mobility data

C(2020)2523 : COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION: Guidance on apps supporting the fight against COVID 19 pandemic in relation to data protection

Thank you for your letter of 3 February on the above files. The EU Services Sub-Committee considered the letter at its meeting on 11 February and decided to clear the file from scrutiny.

We welcome your commitment to keep the Committee updated on future discussions with the European Commission about interoperability and data sharing between contact-tracing apps. Alongside an effective test and trace system, collaboration with the EU on interoperability will be an important part of managing the pandemic when international travel resumes. As you will be aware, the Lords Committees will be restructured after the Easter recess and we would be grateful if you could address any correspondence after that time to the new European Affairs Committee.

I am copying this letter to Baroness Harding, Chair of NHS Improvement; Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons Committee; Les Saunders and Donald Harris, Cabinet Office; and Harry Flannery, Scrutiny Coordinator, Department of Health and Social Care.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Kinnoull
Chair of the European Union Committee