



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of
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Hilary Benn MP, Sir William Cash MP
Yvette Cooper MP, Simon Hoare MP
Angus Brendan MacNeill MP, Sir Robert Neill
MP
Mel Stride MP and Tom Tugendhat MP

Our reference: MC2020/01684

March 2020

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 20 March, proposing the arrangements for the parliamentary scrutiny of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee and Specialised Committees.

I agree that it is important that Parliament has sufficient and effective sight of the work of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee (WAJC) and I am very happy to set out my plans to ensure this is possible.

I intend to lay a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) ahead of each meeting. For the first meeting - scheduled for 30 March 2020 - this will include the agreed provisional agenda and UK delegation. Similarly, I intend to lay a WMS following each meeting outlining the decisions taken by the WAJC.

I will consider on a case by case basis whether to make an oral statement after each WAJC meeting. At this stage I cannot provide Parliament with a timetable of meetings throughout the year.

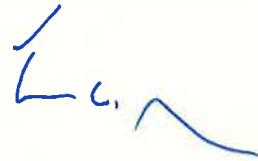
The work of the Specialised Committees will be undertaken by officials. As you know, Specialised Committees cannot take decisions, so it is appropriate for Parliamentary oversight to focus on the work of the WAJC.

I would like to assure you that, in terms of how the Government will work with the European Scrutiny Committee on business to be considered by the WAJC, officials are ready to work with your clerks to agree an approach that meets the Committee's expectations as far as practicable.

I hope this response helps to set out my position and I look forward to engaging with you further.

I am copying this letter to the UK alternate co-chair the Paymaster General, the Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, Lord True, and Lord Kinnoull, Chair of the Lords EU Committee.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Gove', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**