



Department
for Exiting the
European Union

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Dear Colleague

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**LEGISLATING FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE
EUROPEAN UNION
THE GREAT REPEAL BILL WHITE PAPER**

I am writing to inform you that the Government has today published a White Paper on *Legislating for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union*.

The White Paper outlines the proposed content of the Great Repeal Bill. This Bill represents a significant step in the country's journey towards leaving the EU and taking back control of our laws.

The Bill has two core aims. First, to bring back control over laws to the UK by repealing the 1972 European Communities Act. Second, to maximise certainty and clarity by converting EU law into UK law. Both of these provisions will come into effect at the point we leave the EU.

Beyond this, the Bill will not make major policy changes. Those will be made in separate primary legislation, such as on customs and immigration. However, the Bill will need to provide for changes to be made to the body of EU law that is being converted into UK law, so that it functions appropriately after exit. The changes could be as simple as changing a reference to an EU institution to a UK one.

These changes will be subject to the standard approval procedures for secondary legislation and we will discuss with Parliament the appropriate level of scrutiny to ensure proper parliamentary consideration. In doing so we will take into account the recommendations of committees of both Houses, including the recent report of the House of Lords Constitution Committee. The White Paper is clear that the powers to make these changes will be limited, both in terms of scope and the time for which they are available to Government. Parliament of course can—and does—regularly debate and vote on secondary legislation: we are not considering some form of Government 'executive orders' but using a legislative process of long standing.

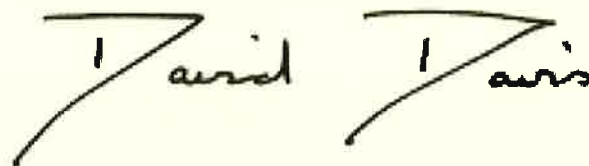
Article 50 sets out a timetable for negotiations, and Parliament will have to consider everything needed to make sure we are ready for exit. There will be big policy changes to be debated and implemented via primary legislation, so it will be vital that smaller but necessary corrections to law are made as expeditiously as possible, in the standard way, allowing for the appropriate degree of scrutiny.

We are also committed to continuing to work closely with the devolved administrations to deliver an approach to returning powers from the EU that works for the whole of the UK and reflects the interests of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is the expectation of the Government that the outcome of this process will be a significant increase in the decision-making power of each devolved administration.

I am particularly keen to ensure that all Members have a chance to discuss our approach and ask any questions before the Bill is introduced. We will be arranging consultations with MPs so that we are able to gather views before the Bill's introduction.

The White Paper is available at gov.uk. For further information please contact repeal-bill@dexeu.gov.uk.

Looking forward to the negotiations with our EU partners, I am strongly of the belief it will be to the mutual benefit of both sides to agree a new deep and special partnership. As the Prime Minister made clear in her letter to President Tusk we fully intend to engage constructively and respectfully, in a spirit of sincere cooperation and we believe that a successful outcome will help to ensure a strong UK and a strong EU.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "David" and the last name "Davis" clearly legible.

RT HON DAVID DAVIS MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION