



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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21 January 2020

Dear David,

Thank you for copying me in to your letter to the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU dated 8 January 2020, regarding proposed amendments to the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill regarding the role of the devolved legislatures in scrutinising draft EU legislation during the transition period.

I am writing to let you know that I raised this matter in a meeting last week with the DExEU Minister in the House of Lords, Lord Callanan. He has confirmed that, in the UK Government's view, there is nothing in the Clause that stops Parliament's scrutiny committees from consulting with committees of the devolved legislatures in preparation of their reports, and indeed would expect the committees to want to do so in relevant areas.

I also wanted to assure you of my Committee's commitment to engagement with the devolved legislatures on the scrutiny of EU legislation during the transition period, scrutiny of the UK-EU future relationship negotiations, and other related issues. I hope to write to you and the Chairs and Conveners of equivalent Committees in the Northern Ireland Assembly and Scottish Parliament shortly on how we propose that such dialogue can operate.

Yours sincerely

Lord Kinnoull
Chair of the European Union Committee