



Department for
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Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chairman
European Union Committee
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

TO2018/04762/DC
26 March 2018

Dear Lord Boswell

I am writing to provide an update on the proposed Regulation for the Free Flow of Non-personal Data in the European Union in response to your letter of 2 February.

Your letter posed a number of questions on the Council's negotiating mandate and these are addressed in the table at Annex A to this letter. I am not able to provide an update at this time on the treatment of sensitive data and the role of the Transparency Directive in implementing the Regulation. My officials are engaging the Commission on these issues, and I will provide further information once we have its response.

As outlined in my previous letter, the proposed Regulation is now under consideration in the European Parliament. The file has been allocated to the Internal Market Committee (IMCO) and the rapporteur, Anna Maria Corazza Bidt, a Swedish MEP, has recently issued her report on the Commission's original proposal (attached at Annex B).

IMCO will discuss the report on 23 March, and this will direct discussion in the lead up to the European Parliament vote in June. My officials are analysing the report and are working to provide briefing amendments to like-minded MEPs and to UKRep, in order to try to ensure the European Parliament text is aligned with our policy objectives.

The European Parliament is expected to vote on its text for the trilogue process on 4 June. The Bulgarian Presidency is yet to provide draft agendas for the Telecommunications Council. I will provide a further update on the timetable for this file as soon as possible.

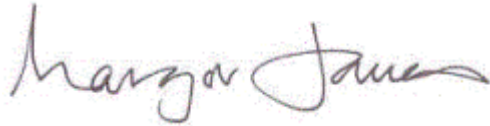
I will ensure the scrutiny reserve is maintained and respected on this file as proceedings unfold.

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I hope your committee finds this helpful in its deliberations and my officials are happy to provide further clarification, where needed.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Les Saunders (DExEU) and Agim Zekaj (DCMS).

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margot James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARGOT JAMES MP
Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries