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Sir William Cash MP
Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

TO2018/11030/DC
25 July 2018

Dear Bill

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the implementation and functioning of the .eu Top Level Domain

Thank you for your report of 11 July 2018 regarding the EM on the above proposal for a Regulation on the .eu top level domain. You raised three questions concerning stakeholder consultations, the Estonian e-Residency initiative and the future economic partnership.

You requested an update on the Department's consultation with key stakeholders on the impact of the loss of eligibility of UK stakeholders for the .eu top level domain. There is no single representative body for the UK citizens and UK-based companies and organisations which have registered .eu domains. However, leading business organisations including the Confederation of British Industry, the Federation of Small Businesses and the British Retail Consortium have been contacted in order to bring to their attention to the consequences of EU Exit for existing UK-based registrants so that they might consult their members, and to invite them to submit any comments and concerns for our consideration. These consultations are on-going. I would add that to date we have not received any representations from UK registrants submitted directly to my Department.

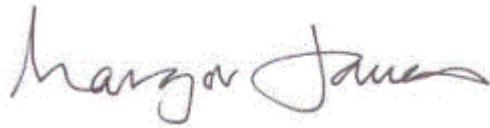
Experts in the domain names industry including at ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) which manages the global domain name system, have also been consulted on the operational aspects of revoking over 300,000 registrations (9% of the total) from the .eu registry operated and managed by EURid.

With regard to the possibility of the Estonian e-Residency initiative affording an opportunity for UK stakeholders in .eu to maintain their eligibility for registration, we are not able to provide advice on this because it would be a matter for individual applicants and existing registrants to consider, and for the Registry to determine eligibility in consultation with the European Commission. The current practice of accredited registrars who sell .eu domains is to check if the address provided by the person or entity applying is in a valid country within the EU or EEA.

The Government recognises that there are specific benefits that are associated with the Digital Single Market which the UK will no longer be part of once it has left the EU. In the White Paper “The Future Relationship Between the United Kingdom and the European Union,” the Government has proposed new arrangements for services and digital, recognising that the UK and the EU will not have current levels of access to each other’s markets in the future.

I am copying this letter to Lord Boswell of Aynho, Chairman of the Lords European Union Committee, Les Saunders in DExEU, and James Ainsworth and Agim Zekaj in DCMS.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Margot James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARGOT JAMES MP
Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries