



Department for  
Digital, Culture  
Media & Sport

**Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP**  
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Sir William Cash MP  
Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

INT2020/28429/DC  
17 December 2020

Dear Sir Bill,

### **6250/20: A European Strategy for Data**

Thank you for your response to the Explanatory Memorandum (EM) I provided dated 13 March 2020 on the above document issued by the European Commission.

#### **Data Spaces**

The EU published the Data Governance Act on 25 November 2020 (DCMS submitted an explanatory memorandum on 10 December 2020). The Data Governance Act is a legislative proposal that is, in part, concerned with strengthening EU-wide data sharing mechanisms and supporting European data spaces, with the goal of increasing data availability. The proposed draft Act is the first of a set of measures previously announced in the 2020 European Strategy for Data.

At this stage in the development of the draft EU Data Governance Act, it is too early to assess all the policy implications for the UK, including those relating to policy development on European data spaces. We understand that, in 2021, the EU intends to publish a raft of further proposals in this regard, and that the Act will support the creation of sectoral Common European Data Spaces, the first of which is health. We are continuing to monitor these developments and their implications on the UK as a third country.

Data spaces are an important area for policy consideration. As outlined in the National Data Strategy, better use of data - and enhanced data sharing mechanisms - can help organisations of every kind succeed across the public, private and third sectors. We will consider options for how the UK should approach this as part of our National Data Strategy commitment to develop a clear policy framework to determine what government interventions are needed to improve data availability in the wider economy.

## **GDPR Article 20 and Greater Data Portability for Individuals**

After the end of the transition period, the UK will continue to operate a high-quality data protection regime that promotes growth and innovation, underpinned by the trustworthy use of data. We want our data protection regime to remain fit for purpose, as outlined in Mission 2 of the National Data Strategy, as the UK economy becomes increasingly digitised and data-enabled. This includes rules relating to data subject rights, including the right to data portability. The National Data Strategy consultation closed on 9 December and we are analysing the responses to help inform our approach.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Whittingdale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

**Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP**  
Minister of State for Media and Data