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for Exiting the
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Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Chair, Exiting the EU Committee
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Dear Hilary,

The United Kingdom is leaving the European Union on 31 October 2019. We want to leave with a deal. One of the most important elements of this deal will be the agreement of a new Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland in place of the previous Protocol (known as the backstop), which this Government is committed to replacing.

The Government is now putting forward a formal proposal to the European Commission, setting out the changes we are seeking to the Withdrawal Agreement. This represents a clear offer from the UK which we will ask the EU to engage with, enabling us to move towards a deal.

I am therefore enclosing copies of the Prime Minister's letter to the President of the European Commission and an Explanatory note on UK proposals for an amended Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.

I am also placing a copy of this letter and the following documents: i) Letter from the Prime Minister to Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission and ii) Explanatory note on UK proposals for an amended Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, in the libraries of both Houses.

RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION