THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Lord Dubs
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Our Ref: LHOL/PEER053

15th October 2019

Dear Alf

Following my repeat of the Prime Minister's statement on Thursday 3 October, I promised to write to you on a question you asked regarding trade from Ireland to the European Union via Great britain.

According to the Irish Maritime Development Office, €18 billion-worth of Irish goods exports to the EU travelled via the "Landbridge" route in 2016. In the same year, €3 billion-worth of Irish goods imports from the EU travelled via this route.

There are discussions ongoing with the European Commission are about a new Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, which are linked to the Landbridge for goods moving from Ireland via Northern Ireland ports to Great Britain and on to the EU 26. For this route, we are committed to avoiding checks and infrastructure at the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland. We have made commitments to ensure unfettered access for Northern Ireland businesses and farmers to the whole UK internal market.

Trade and transit between Ireland and Great Britain via ports such as Dublin and Rosslare, and also between the United Kingdom and the rest of the European Union, will be a matter for the negotiations over the future relationship between the United Kingdom and European Union, where we are seeking a comprehensive free trade agreement.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours Nat

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