



Department  
for Exiting the  
European Union

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP  
Secretary of State for  
Exiting the European Union  
9 Downing Street  
SW1A 2AG

[correspondence@dexeu.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence@dexeu.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

The Earl of Kinnoull  
Chairman, European Union Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

28 January 2020

Dear Lord Kinnoull,

I am writing to inform you that the UK-EEA EFTA Separation Agreement reached between the UK and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein ('the EEA EFTA States'), has today been signed in London. The Agreement resolves issues that arise with these countries as a result of the UK's departure from the EU. This follows my letter to the Committee of 20 December 2018 concerning the conclusion and publication of the agreement in December 2018.

As outlined in this previous letter, the UK-EEA EFTA Separation Agreement largely mirrors the terms of the EU Withdrawal Agreement. The Agreement protects the rights of EEA EFTA and UK citizens living in each other's countries, ensuring that they can continue to live their lives broadly as they do now, and resolves a small number of other separation issues. These include data protection, intellectual property, goods on the market, public procurement, police and criminal justice and ongoing judicial proceedings.

Since publication, we have made a limited number of minor changes to the text, removing some unnecessary wording in order to avoid confusion, making minor corrections, as well as to correct the date on which the Agreement will come into force. The substantive obligations of the parties have not changed.

The Agreement will be provisionally applied by the UK from exit day and will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny under the terms of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act of 2010. It will be subsequently ratified and will enter into force during the transition period. The agreement is implemented by the Withdrawal Agreement Bill.

A copy of this letter will be deposited in the Library of both Houses along with copies of the Agreement and an Explainer.

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