



Department for
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Kirsty Blackman MP
House of Commons
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1 November 2021

Dear Kirsty,

Subsidy Control Bill Committee – matters connected to clause 16

I am writing in response to your request for clarification, made during the Committee session on 28 October, in relation to subsection (7)(a) of clause 16 and the process of laying Secretary of State directions made under subsections (4) and (6) of clause 16.

Directions made under these subsections will be laid before Parliament in accordance with the practice of each House. In the House of Commons, the Journal Office has published a 'Guide to laying papers' which can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/laying-papers.pdf>

As explained in the guidance, the purpose of laying a paper before the House of Commons is to make the information contained in the document available to the House and its Members. Members may go to the Journal Office to look at a document as soon as it is laid. Copies of laid documents should also be available in the Vote Office shortly after they are laid. Once a paper has been laid before the House, it will appear in the Appendix to the Votes and Proceedings.

The requirements of the House of Lords are substantially similar. Arrangements for the laying of papers are handled by the Printed Paper Office in the House of Lords.

On your broader point regarding wider transparency of these ministerial decisions, which, as I said, I fully agree is important, decisions on marketable risk countries will continue to be published concurrently under UK Export Finance (UKEF) guidance on gov.uk. This guidance is well-known to UKEF customers and stakeholders, and an example of it can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/country-cover-policy-and-indicators#a-to-z-list-of-country-or-territory-cover-policies-and-indicators>

I hope the Committee finds this response useful and of course I remain at your disposal should you have any further questions. I am copying this letter to Seema Malhotra MP and all other members of the committee and I will be placing a copy in the Libraries of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Paul Scully', written in a cursive style.

PAUL SCULLY MP

Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets

Minister for London