



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London  
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29 December 2020

All MPs and Peers

Dear Colleague,

### **EUROPEAN UNION (FUTURE RELATIONSHIP) BILL**

I am writing to inform you that the text of the EU (Future Relationship) Bill ('the Bill') has been published on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). The Government has taken this step to facilitate scrutiny of the legislation by both Houses before it is considered tomorrow. The draft Bill should be read alongside the agreements reached between the UK and the EU and associated Declarations, which the Government published on GOV.UK on 24 December.

The deal we have secured is the first FTA the EU has ever reached based on zero tariffs and zero quotas, and is great news for families and businesses in every part of the UK.

The commitments made to the British public during the 2016 referendum and in the general election last year have now been delivered. We have taken back control of our money, borders, laws, trade and waters.

We are no longer bound by EU law. There is no role for the European Court of Justice. All of our key red lines about returning sovereignty have been achieved. We will have full political and economic independence on 1 January, and our laws will be determined by our own elected politicians.

The Bill is now required to make the changes to domestic law necessary to implement the agreements reached with the EU. The content of the Bill is determined by the final text of the agreements.

The Bill is in four parts. Part 1 concerns security, and largely covers the processing and sharing of information in relation to security matters, including criminal records. Part 2 is related to other specific areas of the agreements, including: market surveillance, the use of relevant international standards, customs and tax, transport, social security, personal data and the granting of privileges and immunities. Part 3 makes provision for the general implementation of the agreements where necessary. Part 4 contains standard Bill provisions.

The Bill will only cover those parts of the agreements that cannot be implemented administratively or under existing powers. It does not, for example, contain provisions relating to the agreement reached on fisheries, the implementation of which will be dealt with under the Fisheries Act 2020, where required.

While it has been vital for the Government to continue negotiating to secure the best possible deal for the UK, this has reduced the amount of time available to implement the agreements domestically.

The provisions on the face of the Bill set out certain specific amendments to domestic law which are required to implement obligations under the agreements, in as much detail as possible. Where that has not been possible, given ongoing negotiations, the Government intends to rely on appropriately constrained powers. These powers will be used to set out further detail in secondary legislation where that is required to implement the agreements.

Every effort has been made to balance the need to implement the agreements reached with the EU in good faith with the need to afford Parliament appropriate opportunity to scrutinise the Government's legislative approach.

I look forward to hearing views from across both Houses as colleagues debate and scrutinise this crucial legislation. As we do so, it is important to remember that the provisions in the Bill are crafted such that the UK can meet its international obligations under the agreements. With the transition period ending on 31 December, I look forward to working with you to pass this Bill to implement the agreements we have reached with the EU.

**With every good wish,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and the last name "Gove" clearly distinguishable.

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**