



Richard Corbett

Labour Member of the European Parliament for Yorkshire & Humber

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European Parliament
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Rt. Hon. David Davis MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Friday 5 January 2018

Dear Secretary of State,

Regional studies on the economic impact of Brexit decisions on the nations and regions of the UK

It is now more than one-and-a-half years since the referendum, and ten months since the triggering of Article 50, yet your government is still to explain what Brexit will actually look like, and what its impact will be for the people of the United Kingdom. Government ministers are in the process of taking decisions that will have long lasting and far reaching effects for our country – it is only right that those decisions are taken with an awareness of their likely impact.

As regionally-elected representatives, we believe that it is imperative that an assessment is made of how the different possible paths open to the UK in the upcoming negotiations will affect families, businesses and communities in the British nations and regions - in particular the impact on jobs and the economy.

Last year an impression was created that sectoral impact assessments of Brexit had been carried out by the Department for Exiting the EU. Based on reports by those who have seen the papers made available to parliament and subsequent clarifications, it would appear that this work has not been undertaken in sufficient detail. It was also recently revealed that the Treasury is refusing to publish documents relating to how a series of possible Brexit outcomes, including no deal, will impact the economy.

We are therefore writing to you to request that the government produces a thorough impact assessment of the decisions that will need to be taken on Brexit, and crucially that these studies include an assessment of the impacts of Brexit on each nation and region of the UK. After the fiasco of the inadequate sectoral impact assessments, we insist on the need for full and comprehensive regional impact assessments – our constituents need to know the government is considering the impact of Brexit on their local area, and taking this into account in its negotiations.



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The Mayor of London has commissioned studies on the impact of Brexit on the capital. The Scottish government has published a report on the 'Economic Impact of Leaving the European Union'. It cannot be right that the impact of government decisions is assessed for some parts of the country but not others.

If the government is to be confident that it is taking the right decisions in implementing the outcome of the EU referendum, it must have an awareness of the likely impact of those decisions on all the nations and regions of the UK.

What work has been undertaken across government on the regional economic impact of Brexit? And when will it be published? To date, we are not aware of any work of this nature having been undertaken by your department or the Treasury. If such work has been completed, we would invite you to share this work with the public to assist with the transparency of decision making. If no such work has been undertaken, we would ask you to commission and publish it as a matter of urgency; please confirm by return if the work has been undertaken or not.

Yours etc.,

Richard Corbett MEP
Leader of the Labour Members of the European Parliament
On behalf of all Labour MEPs

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