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Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Chair, Exiting the EU Committee
House of Commons
London
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28th September 2018

Dear Hilary

I would like to thank the Committee for its report, *The progress of the UK's negotiations on EU withdrawal (June to September 2018)* published on 18 September. I was pleased to give evidence to the Committee in July and remain grateful to the Committee for its investment of time and expertise in its continuing inquiries. The Government will of course fully respond to the report in due course.

In the meantime, I wanted to comment briefly on the report's section regarding Gibraltar. UK officials continue to have constructive discussions with the Government of Gibraltar and our European partners, including Spain, to address the practical implications arising from the UK and Gibraltar's EU exit. Officials from the government of Gibraltar have played an active role in these discussions and attended a number of meetings. I am happy to confirm that there is no separate, bilateral process of any kind between the UK and Spain with regards to Gibraltar. We are fully involving the Government of Gibraltar as we negotiate our departure from the EU.

As the Prime Minister told the House on 2 July, "We're committed to fully involve them as we exit the EU, we have been involving the Government of Gibraltar in relation to these matters, and we're looking for a deal that works for the whole of the UK family, and that must work for Gibraltar too." As I am sure Committee did not intend to minimise the role of the Government of Gibraltar in these discussions, I would be very grateful if the Committee could take steps to clarify this point in the report.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

ROBIN WALKER MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
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