



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Crispin Blunt MP  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0PW

**Minister for Europe and the Americas**  
King Charles Street  
London  
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5 December 2016

*Dear Crispin,*

Thank you for your invitation of 10 November to submit written evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee on its inquiry into the implications of leaving the EU for the UK's role in the world.

I can assure the Committee that the topic of this inquiry is of high importance to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and colleagues across Government. HMG's efforts will be focused on getting the best deal possible for the UK in the Article 50 negotiations with the EU. Since those negotiations are not yet underway, the Government is not currently in a position to provide written evidence to the Committee. I hope you appreciate our position and that this is not in any way meant to show any lack of respect for the Committee.

The Government values the Committee's commitment to this inquiry, and looks forward to cooperating with the Committee in future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Duncan".

**RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP**