



# HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 6083  
Fax: 020 7219 6715  
euclords@parliament.uk  
www.parliament.uk/lords

Victoria Atkins MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime,  
Safeguarding and Vulnerability  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

24 July 2019

Dear Victoria,

**EM 10602/19: Summary of the annual implementation reports for the operational programmes co-financed by the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived in 2017**

Thank you for your EM dated 9 July 2019 on the above report, which the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee considered at its meeting on 24 July.

You will know that the EU Committee has been concerned by the Government's inability to find a use for the UK's €3.96m FEAD funding allocation for some time. It is extraordinary that the UK has ended up in a situation where its failure to develop a suitable FEAD programme has wasted nearly six years and €600,000 of the UK's funding allocation. We note that a further €600,000 of the pot will be lost if the UK is unable to spend this sum by the end of 2019.

The Committee has taken a particular interest in the welfare of young refugees and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. We therefore welcome your current plans to develop a FEAD programme which supports these vulnerable groups, but emphasise our disappointment that it has taken so long for the Government to come up with such a positive potential use for these funds.

We have decided to retain this file under scrutiny, and have several questions:

- When do you expect to hear back from the European Commission on whether it approves the proposed programme?
- What are the implications of a 'no deal' Brexit scenario for accessing FEAD funding?
- If the UK does lose access to FEAD as a result of a 'no deal' Brexit, will you commit alternative funding to ensure the important work envisaged in the proposed programme can still take place?

We also request that you send us a copy of the proposed FEAD programme that the Government submitted to the European Commission on 2 July, together with details of how you will ensure the sustainability of this important work and the proposed programme

budget (including a break down of the projected budget spend on administration costs compared with 'on the ground' activities).

I look forward to your response within 10 working days.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons Committee; Les Saunders, Department for Exiting the EU; and Alex Bernal, Departmental Scrutiny Coordinator.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Tim Boswell*

Lord Boswell of Aynho  
Chairman of the European Union Committee