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Alex

This letter provides a Ministerial Direction to formally direct you as Accounting Officer to authorise spending on the market surveillance database outlined in your letter of 14 March 2018. This project is an important contribution to the work that BEIS is undertaking in preparing for the UK's exit from the European Union.

You have indicated that a direction is necessary because spend on the project needs to commence before the EU (Withdrawal) Bill receives Royal Assent. Following Royal Assent, I plan to bring forward secondary legislation that will regularise the spending authority for the market surveillance database. However, in advance of this, there is an over-riding need to press on with essential work on the database in order that critical time is not lost in advance of EU exit in March 2019.

I therefore direct you to proceed with the planned work on this basis.

I note that planning to prepare for EU exit remains underway and that negotiations with the European Commission will inform this planning. As discussions proceed, I expect these and all other preparedness projects to remain under continued scrutiny to ensure that they deliver value for money.

Yours ever

THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy