



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

**The Rt Hon Michael Gove**  
From the Secretary of State

T 03459 335577  
defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

Clare Moriarty  
Permanent Secretary  
Defra  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

#### **EU EXIT READINESS: MINISTERIAL DIRECTION**

This letter provides a Ministerial Direction to formally direct you as Accounting Officer to authorise spending on those activities outlined in your letter of 18 January as part of Defra's work to support Day 1 readiness exiting the European Union.

You have indicated that a direction is necessary because there is a small proportion of Defra's readiness work which cannot wait until the EU (Withdrawal) Bill receives Royal Assent next year. There is however, an over-riding need to press on with essential work on the areas listed in order that critical time is not lost in advance of EU exit in March 2019.

I note the residual uncertainties that will govern our plans to prepare for EU exit as negotiations with the European Commission proceed. I therefore expect these and all other preparedness projects to remain under continued scrutiny to ensure that they deliver value for money for the taxpayer whilst balancing the risk of taking no action.

I therefore direct you to proceed with the planned work for those listed projects on this basis.

Yours sincerely,

**Michael Gove MP**  
**Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**