



Department  
for Transport

From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling**

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR



Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

Permanent Secretary  
Department for Transport

Thank you for your letter of 7 February regarding the plans to begin committing funding to EU Exit programmes. This letter is to confirm that I am directing you as Accounting Officer to begin committing funds to these programmes.


I have noted your concerns about compliance with Managing Public Money and specifically that some spending on EU exit preparations must occur in advance of Royal Assent of relevant Bills. This is an important consideration, which I expect the Department to adhere to in the normal course of business. On this occasion, however, I believe it is important to consider the wider public interest with regard to our overall readiness for EU Exit.

The two schemes outlined in your letter, which may incur expenditure ahead of receiving statutory cover, are important to ensuring safety and security for UK citizens and businesses travelling or operating in the EU after our exit. If we are not in a position to provide UK residents and companies with the appropriate documentation for travelling in EU states from day one, there is a significant risk to our national competitiveness, but more importantly individual citizens could be unfairly penalised. I have no doubt that developing systems for road haulage permits and trailer registrations will take time and it is therefore important that the DVSA and DVLA begin preparations for the as soon as possible.

I welcome your assurance that expenditure on all EU projects will be tested to ensure that they are regular, proper and feasible. I expect you to seek value for money as far as possible and where required share business cases with HMT for their approval.

In light of these arguments I believe there are grounds for issuing you with a technical direction to proceed with these projects.

I note that you will share copies of our letters with the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

With best wishes  


**Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**