



National Audit Office

Helping the nation spend wisely

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000

Facsimile +44 (0)207 798 7070

James Spencer

By Email:

request-571711-9d07d9dc@whatdotheyknow.com

Email foi@nao.org.uk

Reference FOI 1243

Date 28 May 2019

Dear Mr Spencer

PLANNED BREXIT REPORTS

Thank you for your request of 28 April 2019 in which you asked for information relating to planned Brexit reports. Your specific request is outlined below.

I would like to request what reports are planned in the NAO's ongoing programme of work across government to examine how government is organising itself to deliver a successful exit from the EU before November 2019.

Your request is being handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Our response to your request is at **Annex A**

Annex B sets out the steps you should take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

Philip Taylor
Head of FOI

Annex A

The National Audit Office (NAO) is responsible for the external audit of the financial statements of central government public bodies and has statutory powers to undertake examinations of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which public bodies have used public money. As such we have an ongoing interest in how government departments are using public money to implement the UK's exit from the European Union (EU).

Our programme of work is shaped by our consideration of longer-term risks to the value for money in public spending, as well as by more immediate issues that emerge through our ongoing work or are brought to our attention through correspondence, whistle blowers, parliamentarians and the media. The work we undertake is at the discretion of the head of the NAO, the Comptroller & Auditor General, who is an officer of the House of Commons and independent of government.

Since the EU referendum in June 2016, the NAO has published over twenty briefings and reports that examine the implementation of the UK's exit from the EU. These publications can be found [here](#).

Since your request we have published two further reports:

- [Preparing for trade negotiations](#), 19 May 2019
- [Out-of-court settlement with Eurotunnel](#), 9 May 2019

We currently have two pieces of work related to EU Exit scheduled for future publication.

- [Departments' use of consultants to support preparations for EU Exit](#); and
- [Future Farming which considers agricultural policy post EU Exit](#).

We commonly examine issues relating to EU Exit as they arise. This means that our work is often produced at short notice to a swift timetable. EU Exit is an ongoing area of interest for Parliament and we expect to continue to examine this topic in our future work. As our work programme develops we will publish details of the work we have planned on our website [here](#).

I hope you find this information useful.

Annex B

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI@nao.org.uk or by post to:

FOI Team, Red 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF