



*SIGOMA & Key Cities*

Chair: Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE  
(Barnsley MBC)

Chair: Councillor Peter Box  
(Wakefield MBC)

The Rt Hon David Davis MP  
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Dear Minister,

As respective Chairs of the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities and Key Cities, we represent 50 local authorities across England and are therefore taking a keen interest in the Government's progress on the Brexit negotiations.

We appreciate the significant challenges associated with our exit from the European Union and welcome the Government's stated commitments to "frictionless trade" and emphasis on the importance of protecting British business.

However, we do have concerns regarding the extent to which the final deal will seek to balance the interests of English regional economies and how it can be demonstrated that these varying interests have been given the fair and full consideration they are due.

This point is of particular importance to our members in light of the potentially unbalanced regional and sectoral impact highlighted in an early Government impact assessment published by the Committee on Exiting the European Union.<sup>1</sup>

While we welcome the fact that DExEU has regular meetings with the LGA, where it may be possible to consider such issues, we have also heard evidence given to both the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee<sup>2</sup> and the CLG Select Committee<sup>3</sup> which has repeatedly raised concerns over the absence of a formal

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/exiting-the-european-union-committee/news-parliament-2017/cross-whitehall-briefing-published-17-19/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/public-administration-and-constitutional-affairs-committee/devolution-and-exiting-the-eu/oral/84567.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/housing-communities-and-local-government-committee/brexit-and-local-government/oral/80790.pdf>

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framework through which the English regions are able to express the interests of their residents on a fair and equal footing.

Echoing the request of CLG Committee Chair Clive Betts, therefore, we would be keen to receive clarification on how you are engaging with local authorities and other stakeholders from every region of the country.<sup>4</sup>

We would also welcome any clarification you may be able to provide on how, in the interests of transparency and democratic accountability, your department proposes to demonstrate that this important consultation process has influenced the Government's position on the transition, subsequent trade deals and post-Brexit policy making.

We look forward to any assurances you may be able to provide on these issues.

Yours Sincerely,



Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton  
SIGOMA Chair



Cllr Peter Box  
Key Cities Chair

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<sup>4</sup> [https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/communities-and-local-government/Correspondence/Letter-from-the-Chair-to-SoS-\(CLG\)-relating-to-Brexit-and-Local-Government-18-December-2017.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/communities-and-local-government/Correspondence/Letter-from-the-Chair-to-SoS-(CLG)-relating-to-Brexit-and-Local-Government-18-December-2017.pdf)