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Robert Devereux
Permanent Secretary
Department of Work and Pensions
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Date: 22 January 2015

Dear Robert,

As Chair of the Better Regulation Executive, I wanted to write to thank you for your Department's work on better regulation this Parliament and indicate some of the future challenges we might face.

On coming into office, this Government set itself several challenging tasks around better regulation. These included

- systematic scrutiny of the stock of regulation, through Red Tape Challenge
- taking control of the flow of regulation, through One-in, One-out (later One-in, Two-out)
- changing the culture of frontline enforcement
- challenging unnecessary or overly burdensome EU regulation

I have recently written to the Prime Minister, setting out our overall successes in these areas and attach a copy of that letter for information. Those successes have relied upon a cross-Whitehall effort.

In handling a significant volume of regulatory change around pension reforms and health and safety regulation, DWP and HSE have reached the end of this Parliament having delivered over £800m of net savings to business; the highest level of net savings of any department. Your Better Regulation Units and policy teams deserve high praise, not only for this achievement, but for the constructive and thoughtful way they have engaged with the better regulation agenda.

This Government has seen a fundamental shift in how regulation is approached, but this is just the beginning. The Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill, currently before Parliament, contains provisions to embed these changes, including the creation

of a statutory requirement for each Government to set and report against a deregulation target. I would therefore urge you, when planning for possible priorities in the next Parliament, to consider how these can be delivered with proportionate costs to business and with better regulation principles in mind from the outset. Officials in the Better Regulation Executive stand ready to support your policy teams in this regard; indeed continued cross-Government working on this important agenda will be crucial in order to successfully set and deliver an ambitious target.

Once again, many thanks for your hard work to date. I look forward to working with you on this agenda in the next Parliament. A hard copy of this letter will follow and an electronic copy goes to Sir Jeremy Heywood.

Kind regards

Don

Lord (Don) Curry
Non-Executive Chair, Better Regulation Executive