Thank you for your letter of 11 April, regarding the impact of the UK leaving the EU. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of State and apologise for the delay.

The Article 50 letter formally brings together what we are proposing to our European partners should be the basis of the forthcoming negotiation. We want a deep and special partnership that takes in both security and economic co-operation, with a bold and ambitious free trade agreement greater in scope than any such agreement before. We are confident that we are going to be able to secure a deal that works for the UK and the EU.

In regards to your concerns about the Single Market, the Government has already set out its plan surrounding the Single Market after we leave the EU in the White Paper, The UK’s exit from and new partnership with the EU, published in February this year.

In addition, please be reassured that the UK will remain an open and tolerant country, one that recognises the valuable contribution migrants make to our society and welcomes those with the skills and expertise to make our nation better still.

You also raised the issue of studies the Government has conducted on the impact of exiting the EU. Since the referendum, the whole of Government has undertaken a work programme to make sure that it is ready to begin negotiations from a position of strength. DExEU has conducted analysis of over 50 sectors of the economy. We have also travelled up and down the country to listen to the hopes and concerns of businesses, civil society and of course the general public.

We will need to discuss how we determine a fair settlement of the UK’s rights and obligations as a departing Member State, in accordance with the law and in the spirit of the UK’s continuing partnership with the EU. We are approaching discussions constructively and respectfully and are confident we can achieve an outcome that works in the interests of both sides.
I can assure you that though we are leaving the EU, we are not leaving Europe. We want to remain committed partners and allies to our friends across the continent. We should approach the negotiations for our exit with a sense of mutual respect and cooperation and aim for the best outcome for the whole of the UK.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

RT HON DAVID JONES
MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION