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| [Redacted] | Area GG  OAG  Victoria Quay  Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  6 September 2017 |

Dear [Redacted]

**Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 8 August 2017 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).  You asked:

International Trade Secretary Liam Fox, speaking on BBC1's Sunday Politics on 16/07/17, stated that all Government departments had their own "contingency plan" in case there is "no deal" reached on Brexit by March 2019.

- Did the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland have such a "contingency plan" on 16/07/17?

- If it did, what date was the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland's "contingency plan" for "no deal" on Brexit completed?

- If it did not have such a "contingency plan" for "no deal" on Brexit on 16/07/17, does the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland have one now?

We note that the Secretary of State's quote was that "Government departments across Whitehall are all working on their contingency plans". For the most part these 'contingency plans' are not a single bound document of some kind, but a programme of assessments being made across each organisation's remit, taking account of current developments in coordination with the Department for Exiting the EU (DExEU) and, in the case of executive agencies and arms-length bodies, their associated department. In addition, given the fluid nature of the negotiations, it is prudent for those contingency plans being undertaken to be regularly revised and updated to reflect the current situation.

Therefore in response to your request,

1)  No. The Office of the Advocate General is the UK Government’s Scottish legal team.  We provide legal advice to UK Government Departments, represent the UK Government in Courts and Tribunals in Scotland and support the Advocate General as a UK Law Officer.  Accordingly while this is a legal office and as such holds no contingency plan of its own, we have been working with other departments across Government on their contingency plans of the type mentioned above.

2)  Not held

3) N/A

The Department for Exiting the EU (DExEU) is responsible for overseeing and coordinating work on the UK’s approach to the negotiations with the EU. The Office of the Advocate General will continue to provide advice on its area of responsibility as required throughout this period, and will contribute to contingency planning at the appropriate point. For further information, please contact DExEU.

You may, if dissatisfied with the treatment of your request, ask the Office of the Advocate General to conduct an internal review of its decision.  The internal review will be conducted by someone other than the person who took the initial decision.  Requests for internal review should be addressed to the Information Officer, Office the Advocate General, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

If following the internal review you remain dissatisfied with the treatment of your request by OAG then you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner, whose address is Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.  Details of the complaints procedure can be found here:

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns>

Yours sincerely

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