Press release
What the government’s Brexit white paper must address
Strictly embargoed: 00.01am, Monday 9 July

A detailed assessment of what the government must address in its Brexit white paper has been carried out by academic think tank The UK in a Changing Europe.

The report – The Brexit white paper: what it must address – argues that the white paper must:

- **resolve the trade-offs between**: optimal economic policies, adherence to the government’s red lines and satisfaction of the EU’s demands
- **provide a credible plan for a customs relationship** setting out a proposal that is acceptable to the EU and is feasible both practically and financially
- **address the trade off between regulatory divergence and trade barriers** setting out not only how tariffs but also non-tariff (regulatory) barriers will be limited
- **acknowledge and address the issue of the intra-Irish border** proposing practical alternatives to the EU’s backstop solution (which requires Northern Ireland to remain in a customs union and fully aligned with the EU on goods)
- **allow for continued North-South cooperation on the island of Ireland**, which will need to include practical solutions in areas including the environment, health, agriculture and security
- **address the often conflicting interests within and between sectors** addressing the high levels of uncertainty afflicting a number of economic sectors including fisheries and agriculture
- **choose its preferred model for managing the financial sector**: recognise a trade-off between regulatory autonomy and access to EU markets in financial services and indicate what the choice will be
- **propose what kind of governance and dispute settlement arrangement it wants** and decide on the institutions it wants to govern future relations with the EU
- **set out details on the future devolution settlement** clarifying the UK’s own governance arrangements
- **represent a significant improvement over the first Brexit white paper**, which consisted of a series of highlights from the Lancaster House speech. Less policy prescription than a ‘greatest hits’ collection.

The report acknowledges the significant political constraints which the Prime Minister is having to act but emphasises the need to make choices nonetheless.

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Equally, it argues that a bespoke deal – cherry picking parts of the single market with only partial oversight – is not on offer. This means the UK either has to shift its red lines or accept an inferior deal to the one that the Prime Minister has been selling for nearly two years.

Anand Menon said: “To reduce uncertainty, which the Prime Minister promised to do since January 2017, she needs to make clear choices. Economically, there is much to be gained from making tough choices sooner rather than later.”

The 15-chapter 36 page report was written by leading academics involved with The UK in a Changing Europe.

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Notes to editors:
1. To interview Professor Anand Menon director of The UK in a Changing Europe, or any other of the report’s authors, please contact Ben Miller communications manager at The UK in a Changing Europe by email ben.miller@kcl.ac.uk.
2. The UK in a Changing Europe promotes rigorous, high-quality and independent research into the complex and ever changing relationship between the UK and the EU. It is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and is based at King’s College London.
3. You can download the report here, request a PDF or hard copy by contacting Ben Miller.
4. The report’s chapters and authors are:

1. What to look for
2. Introduction - Anand Menon
3. The Context - Anand Menon, Matt Bevington and Alan Wager
4. Ireland - David Phinnemore
5. Customs - Meredith Crowley and Oliver Exton
6. Trade, regulation and non-tariff barriers - Josh De Lyon and Swati Dhingra
7. Regulation - Hussein Kassim
8. Dispute settlement - Steve Peers and Catherine Barnard
9. Governance arrangements - Catherine Barnard and Steve Peers
10. Immigration - Jonathan Portes
11. Devolution - Nicola McEwen
12. Fisheries - Craig McAngus, Christopher Huggins, John Connolly and Arno van der Zwet
13. Agriculture - Carmen Hubbard and Anne Liddon
14. Financial services - John-Paul Salter

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