



**BANK OF ENGLAND**

Mr Bob Posner  
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**Sonya Branch**  
General Counsel  
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25 May 2016

Dear Bob

**Re: Referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union.**

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2016. The Governor has asked me to respond on behalf of the Bank.

The Bank is aware of the rules outlined in your letter.

The Bank will enter into a pre-Referendum purdah period on 27 May 2016. While the Bank is not within scope of the guidelines for non-departmental public bodies to be issued by the Cabinet Office, the Bank has determined to observe pre-Referendum purdah in the spirit of those guidelines.

In this context, and as the Governor mentioned before the House of Commons Treasury Committee on 24 May 2016, the Bank will publish the minutes of its June Monetary Policy Committee meeting on 16 June 2016 and any other 'business as usual' communications pursuant to the Bank's statutory remit.

For further background, and as you are no doubt aware, the Bank is an apolitical organisation. Parliament, through legislation, has given the Bank operational independence to pursue its objectives to maintain price and financial stability, promote the safety and soundness of PRA-authorized firms and contribute to securing an appropriate degree of protection for insurance policy holders. The Bank has not campaigned for any outcome in the Referendum and will not do so. All publications and statements by the Bank and its officials relating to the United Kingdom's continued membership of the European Union have been wholly limited to issues within the Bank's statutory remit. The Bank has acknowledged publicly that there are many issues outside its remit which will be relevant to the decision of the British people in the Referendum.

We hope that this is a complete response to your query. If you have any further questions regarding how we are observing purdah within the Bank, please contact me or Jenny Scott (Executive Director, Communications). Jenny can be contacted at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Sonya Branch  
General Counsel