



Senator Ian Gorst
Cyril Le Marquand House
The Parade, St. Helier
Jersey
JE4 8QT

15 November 2018

Dear Ian,

EU EXIT AND THE UK-JERSEY CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP

As preparations continue for our withdrawal from the European Union in 2019, I wanted to write to reaffirm the UK Government's commitment to the historic and valued constitutional relationship between the UK and Jersey.

The UK Government continues to work towards a deal with the EU that works not just for the UK, but for the whole British family. We remain confident that such a deal will be achieved, and we will continue to consult and engage with Jersey and the other Crown Dependencies to ensure that your interests are properly taken into account, both in negotiations with the EU, and in our own domestic preparations for EU Exit.

The UK Government has worked closely with you and your officials since the referendum to identify and refine our understanding of the issues that are of most importance to the Government of Jersey. Our Governments have collaborated to identify the best way to protect Jersey's interests in negotiations, and we continue this work through the Chief Ministers' Quarterly meeting and the Contact Group, as well as in numerous dedicated, bilateral meetings. This unprecedented level of cooperation has achieved some notable successes: the inclusion of the Crown Dependencies in the territorial scope of the Withdrawal Agreement, thereby ensuring the continuity of the effects of Protocol 3 to the end of the implementation period; the establishment of the first central Government committee to address Crown Dependencies' concerns on a regular and frequent basis; and the sharing of secondary legislation and sensitive 'No Deal' technical notices whilst still in draft to enable your government to prepare its own legislation and communications to citizens and businesses.

I also note the good progress that is being made on agreeing a new customs union between the UK and the Crown Dependencies. This is important in preparing for a range of post-Exit scenarios, and the technical agreements being negotiated with Jersey and the other Crown Dependencies are an important part of the framework needed to support that arrangement. The progress so far reflects the constructive approach taken by all parties, and I would like to thank you and your officials for your engagement to date.

As the Prime Minister made clear to you in her letter of July 2016, and as has been reaffirmed by the UK Government since, the UK's decision to leave the EU does not change the longstanding constitutional relationships between the UK and the Crown Dependencies. As the UK Minister responsible for Crown Dependencies' business in Whitehall, I want to reiterate this point, and to reassure you that the UK fully intends to continue to work closely with Jersey in the context of that important and historic relationship, as evidenced by the Royal Charters.

I look forward to continuing to work together as we build on the positive collaboration that has taken place between our Governments since the 2016 referendum. The constitutional relationship between the UK and Jersey is centuries-old, and I very much hope that it will endure for centuries to come.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken J Elie'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

RT HON LORD KEEN OF ELIE QC