

Dear Chief Ministers

Thank you and your co-signatories for your letter of 28 June to my predecessor following the Referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union (EU).

I can confirm that as we prepare for a new negotiation with the EU we will engage your Governments. It is right that the Crown Dependencies are kept informed and offered the opportunity to contribute where it is relevant and appropriate to do so.

I have noted that you consider your interests will be best served by a continuation, as far as is possible, of the substance of the current arrangements. I also note the particular relevance of the grandfathering of rights of EU nationals that reside in your jurisdictions.

I assure you that the Referendum result does not change the constitutional relationship between the United Kingdom and the Crown Dependencies. This relationship is a valued, historical and special one, and the UK Government takes its responsibilities towards the Crown Dependencies very seriously. Regular dialogue at both Ministerial and official level across a range of issues remains ongoing, and this communication and cooperation will be essential moving forward. I look forward to continuing these positive working relationships in all areas of mutual interest, and as we work together on the challenges that lie ahead I will seek to ensure your interests are taken properly into account.

The UK Government welcomed the opportunity that Friday's extraordinary meeting of the British-Irish Council provided to discuss and listen to your views.

Your sincerely

TR... Mj

Hon Allan Bell CBE MHK