

Dear Chief Minister

In advance of triggering Article 50, I wanted to write to you to update you on the Government's plans for engagement with the Crown Dependencies during the UK's forthcoming negotiations with the European Union (EU). I have written in similar terms to your counterparts in Jersey and Guernsey.

I was pleased to note, in your evidence to the House of Lords EU Select Committee, your positive remarks on the United Kingdom Government's engagement with the Governments of the Crown Dependencies since the Referendum, in particular your engagement with Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Robin Walker. As I set out in my letter of 26 July, it is right that the Crown Dependencies are kept informed as we prepare to leave the EU, and that they are offered the opportunity to contribute where it is relevant and appropriate to do so.

The constitutional relationship between the United Kingdom and the Crown Dependencies is a valued, historical and special one, and I want to take this opportunity to assure you that the Referendum result does not change this relationship.

I would also like to assure you that throughout the process of leaving the European Union we will ensure that our actions are compatible with this constitutional relationship.

Our White Paper, published on 2 February, confirms the commitment that our governments share to maintaining the Common Travel Area (CTA). These arrangements long pre-date the UK's accession to the EU and we want to ensure that they are preserved. As the White Paper makes clear, we will work with the Crown Dependencies, alongside the Northern Ireland Executive and Irish Government, to deliver a practical solution that allows for the maintenance of the CTA, while protecting the integrity of the UK's immigration system.

The White Paper also confirms our continued commitment to respecting the interests of the Crown Dependencies, and engaging with you as we enter negotiations, strengthening the bonds between us as we forge a new relationship with the EU and with the wider world.

I look forward to building on the positive working relationships between the Crown Dependencies and the UK as we move into the next phase of this process, including discussions on customs and trade, immigration, agriculture and fisheries, financial services, and a range of other issues. We remain committed to engaging with the Isle of Man as we prepare to exit the EU, to ensure that your interests are properly taken into account.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Quayle', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Howard Quayle MHK