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Dear Maddy,

During the debate on the EU (Withdrawal) Bill on Monday 30 April, you raised a point on the subject of what enforceable child protection measures will be in place once we are longer a EU member state. I am sorry that I was unable to respond to you at the time and I promised to write to you.

Let me reassure you that the UK meets its obligations under the UNCRC through a mixture of legislative and policy initiatives. For example, in England, the rights and best interests of children are protected through the Children Act 1989, the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Children Act 2004, as well as other legislative and administrative measures. If a public body is not acting in accordance with the relevant legislation they may be challenged by way of judicial review in the normal way through the courts. Existing remedies are available if a court finds that the legislation or a policy is contrary to normal public law principles or there has been a breach of the legislation.

The UK's exit from the EU will not affect the protection of children's rights in accordance with the UNCRC as these are already protected through existing domestic legislation and administrative measures.

I hope you find this letter helpful. I will also send a copy to those Peers who spoke to the amendment and will place a copy in the House library.

*Yours sincerely,
Annabel*

BARONESS GOLDIE

Baroness Meacher
House of Lords