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Dear Baroness Sheehan,

During the oral question on Kashmir: Human Rights on Tuesday 17 July, I promised to write to you with more details about the Government's assessment of the root causes of protests in India-administered Kashmir. The drivers behind protests are complex and include a range of historical and current factors; we note the comments in the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' report about the profile of protesters in India-administered Kashmir.

As I underlined in The House, dialogue between India and Pakistan is a fundamental confidence building measure that could help make progress on this complex situation. Ultimately they are the only two parties who can determine a lasting political resolution on Kashmir, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

You may be interested to know that the Government of India appointed a Special Interlocutor in October 2017 to engage with different parties including the youth, in India-administered Kashmir to better understand concerns. We welcome such efforts for inclusive dialogue to resolving differences.

I hope you find this letter helpful. I will also place a copy in the House library.

Yours sincerely,  
Annabel Su. Goldie

**BARONESS GOLDIE** —

Baroness Sheehan  
House of Lords