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Lord German OBE
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Dear Lord German,

I am writing to offer further explanation on the points you raised, during the Second Reading of the UK Internal Market (UKIM) Bill on 19 October, in relation to the power the Bill confers on the UK Government to provide financial assistance.

The power to provide financial assistance will make sure that the UK Government can lead strategic, UK-wide investment in areas such as economic development, infrastructure, culture, sport and educational and training activities and exchanges both within the UK and internationally - much of which were previously done at EU level. This is all the more important as businesses and communities throughout our country recover from the impacts of COVID.

The UK Government's 2019 election manifesto committed to, at a minimum, match the size of EU structural funds in each nation of the UK with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which this power will enable.

The UK Government will work with the devolved administrations and local authorities to ensure that we can complement their existing - and continuing - powers used to support citizens in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

I hope this clarifies the position and thank you again for your contribution to the debate.

Yours sincerely,

Lord True CBE