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| Lord McInnes of KilwinningHouse of LordsLondonSW1A 0PW | **Lord Khan of Burnley**  *Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*4th Floor, Fry Building2 Marsham StreetLondon SW1P 4DF[**www.gov.uk/mhclg**](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg) |
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29 July 2024

Dear Lord McInnes

Thank you for your contribution to the debate on Tuesday 23 July on The Constitution and Devolution. In the debate, you raised issues regarding the Council of Nations and Regions, devolution of immigration, the appointment of an Advocate General in Scotland, and the government’s position on Northern Ireland. I recognise your important role in advising previous Prime Ministers on strengthening the UK’s constitutional settlement over the previous years and look forward to your continued contribution to this effort in the House of Lords.

I would like to assure you that we are committed to resetting our relationships with the Devolved Governments, with the principles of trust, cooperation and respect.

Regarding immigration, the security of the whole United Kingdom is paramount, and we share the same values across the whole country.

Ministerial appointments, such as that of the Advocate General for Scotland, are a matter for the Prime Minister.

On Northern Ireland, The UK Government will uphold the Good Friday Agreement both in letter and in spirit, including the principle of consent, upon which the Agreement rests. The Government is strongly committed to our United Kingdom, as was clearly set out in our manifesto and I trust you will see that reflected in our work as we take it forward. Our foremost priority is to provide long-term certainty to the people of Northern Ireland. To that end, we are committed to working with all political parties and communities to ensure the stability of devolved government, improve public services and the sustainability of public finances.

I will place a copy of this letter in the House Library.



 **Lord Khan of Burnley**

**Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State**