



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Lord Khan of Burnley
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Baroness Hoey
House of Lords
London
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1 August 2024

Dear Baroness Hoey,

Thank you for your contribution to the debate on Tuesday 23 July on the constitution and devolution. In the debate, you raised concerns about Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom internal market due to the Windsor Framework.

The Government is committed to implementing that agreement in good faith, and to taking all steps necessary to protect the internal Market. There has already been considerable progress in delivering on the *Safeguarding the Union* Command Paper, including the legislation and the Humble Address that were brought before Parliament earlier this year, and we will continue to make as much progress as possible with implementing the commitments in it.

The Government is also committed to seeking joint solutions with the EU to the challenges that will arise in future. The benefits of such an approach are evident in the recent agreement reached with the EU on a 10-year extension to implement the phase-out of dental amalgam in Northern Ireland. This demonstrates the determination that I believe exists on all sides, across the UK and the EU, to work constructively together to address issues affecting everyday life in Northern Ireland.

The Government is absolutely 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. We will always uphold the Good Friday Agreement both in letter and in spirit, including the principle of consent upon which the Agreement rests. To that end, we are committed to working with all political parties and communities to ensure the stability of devolved government.

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

Lord Khan of Burnley
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State