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Lord Khan of Burnley Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

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Lord Rogan House of Lords London SW1A 0PW

1 August 2024

Dear Lord Rogan,

Thank you for your contribution to the debate on Tuesday 23 July on the constitution and devolution. In the debate, you raised the issue of the Council of Nations and Regions and repealing and replacing the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023, funding, and the Borders and Immigration Bill.

The Council of Nations and Regions will bring together the Prime Minister, the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales, the First and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, and the Mayors of Combined Authorities.

On repealing and replacing the Legacy Act, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has this week made a Written Statement to Parliament laying out the Government's plans. The Government has written to the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal to formally abandon all its grounds of appeal against the section 4 Human Rights Act declarations of incompatibility made by the Northern Ireland High Court in relation to the Legacy Act.

The Government will now begin preparations to address the incompatibility findings of the High Court, which will include laying a draft remedial order under section 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998 to remove offending provisions from the statute book, including the provisions on conditional immunity. The Northern Ireland Office has begun work on this, with a view to laying the draft order in Parliament as soon as parliamentary time allows.

The Government has also committed to reverse the current prohibition on bringing new civil proceedings, and to propose measures to allow inquests previously halted to proceed. The

Government will also undertake a period of consultation with all interested parties, including victims and survivors, to seek their views.

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On funding for the PSNI, you will know that policing in NI is a devolved matter and the prioritisation of police resourcing is first a matter for the Executive in setting a budget for all NI departments and second the responsibility of the Department of Justice. Through Main Estimates, the UK Government has provided the Northern Ireland Executive with further funding for the financial year 2024-25. The Executive is also projected to be funded above its relative level of need of 124% for the current financial year due to the commitments of the Executive restoration package.

On the Borders and Immigration Bill, I can confirm that the King's Speech set out that the Bill will extend to Northern Ireland.

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

Yours sincerely,

Lord Khan of Burnley Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State