



Department for
Science, Innovation
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Baroness Stuart of Edgbaston
House of Lords
London
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Dear Baroness Stuart,

I am writing to you following your contribution at the data adequacy debate on 4 December. Thank you for your question regarding the security of the undersea cables we share with Europe, especially Ireland, both on the seabed and where they come ashore. During the debate, I committed to write to you on my department's engagement with our Irish and other European partners.

The Government has made clear its intention to establish a strong relationship with Ireland to strengthen the security and resilience of undersea cables between our two nations. At the UK-IE Summit in March, an agreement was made to collaborate on maritime security with an emphasis on safeguarding critical undersea infrastructure.

As a first step towards implementing the commitment under this agreement, DSIT officials are working with Irish counterparts to exercise and improve our emergency response procedures in the event of severe disruption to subsea telecoms cables. This work will help to ensure efficient information sharing and enable a rapid, coordinated response to support the repair and restoration of priority services in the event of an emergency.

The Government also recognises the importance of collaborating with Europe to enhance the security and resilience of our shared subsea telecoms infrastructure. This year the Government established the UK-EU Digital Dialogue, under which we have agreed for DSIT and the European Commission to work together to enhance the security of subsea cables. The first meeting of the Dialogue will take place early next year.

This initiative reflects our strong commitment to ensuring the security and resilience of subsea telecommunications cables and associated infrastructure.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Baroness Lloyd

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Digital Economy