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Dear Oliver,

UK Supreme Court

During the debate on Earl Ferrers' question on Thursday 23 April on the address of the UK Supreme Court, you raised a point on whether the separation of the Supreme Court from Government and Parliament was in some way compromised by the inclusion of ".gov" in the email address. In addition, Lord Dixon-Smith suggested that the address might include ".org" instead of ".gov".

I have taken this point up and there are very sound reasons why ".gov" is a part of the address. The Supreme Court needs to operate on a very secure, robust and resilient system. It will need to handle sensitive information in a secure environment, including the provision of remote access from a range of locations. The use of the Government Secure Internet (gsi) meets those needs in the most cost effective manner. To create a secure system of similar resilience and capability would significantly increase set-up and future running costs.

In addition, the use of ".gov" is not seen as referring solely to central Government and is used by both the Monarchy and the Judiciary of England and Wales.

I am copying this letter to those who spoke in the debate and placing a copy in the House Library.

Yours truly

W.B.

WILLY BACH