FRAMEWORK FOR THE UK-EU PARTNERSHIP: CIVIL JUDICIAL CO-OPERATION

Today the Government has set out further detail on the future relationship it wants with the European Union in civil judicial co-operation.

As the United Kingdom leaves the EU, the Government is seeking a deep and comprehensive partnership with the EU. We have made significant progress so far, having agreed the terms of a time limited Implementation Period and much of the substance of our Withdrawal Agreement. Whilst this work continues, we are also focussing on negotiating the right future relationship, including what this means for continued civil judicial cooperation between the UK and EU. You will recall that this was part of the Justice Committee’s inquiry on the Implications of Brexit for the Justice System in the last parliament.

We believe that cooperating in civil judicial matters is mutually beneficial for both the UK and EU, and goes wider than the single market or trade: it supports mobility and protects rights for both UK and EU citizens. It matters for individuals, families, consumers, employees, businesses and creditors alike and, given the wide-ranging partnership both the UK and EU have said they want, it is clear our citizens will each live, work and study in our respective countries after EU exit. A continuing civil judicial relationship will form part of the underpinning of that partnership.

On Thursday 7 June UK officials met with Taskforce 50 to outline to them our vision for a future civil judicial relationship. In this meeting we explained why a continued relationship, based closely on the principles of our existing cooperation is clearly in the interests of both the UK and EU and how it should serve as part of the legal underpinning of our new relationship. We also made it clear that a future agreement should encompass both family and civil judicial cooperation (including insolvency).

We have published our position in a slide pack, which was presented to Taskforce 50. This can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/framework-for-the-uk-eu-partnership-judicial-civil-cooperation. If you or your Committee would like more detail on the Government’s position, my officials would be happy to offer a technical briefing on this important subject.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON DAVID GAUKE MP