Dear Bob,

**UPDATE ON EU EXIT AND THE CROWN DEPENDENCIES**

In its 10th Report of Session 2016-17, ‘The implications of Brexit for the Crown Dependencies’, the Justice Select Committee recommended “that the Government report back on its progress on those issues requiring more urgent attention, such as agricultural export licences, by March 2018”. In the Government’s response to that report, my predecessor committed to sending such an update, which I am now happy to provide. Please accept my apologies for not having written to you before the end of March, however I am sure you will recognise that developments prior to Easter mean that I am able to provide a more substantive update at this time.

The Government remains committed to engaging with the Crown Dependencies as we negotiate the UK’s withdrawal from the EU, and to consulting the Crown Dependencies as we act on their behalf in an international capacity.

In mid-March, the UK and EU negotiating teams reached agreement on the terms of a time-limited implementation period, to last until 31 December 2020. The Crown Dependencies have made clear that it would be in their interest to be covered by such an implementation period, which will apply to the Crown Dependencies to the extent that Union law is currently applicable to them.

The implementation period will act as a bridge to the future partnership between the UK and the EU. It will also give clarity and certainty to businesses and citizens in the Crown Dependencies, including those in the agricultural and fishing sectors, that the current regulatory systems governing the export of their products to the EU will continue during the implementation period. This means that they will be able to trade with the EU under the same regulations as now, until at least the end of 2020.

There has been regular official and Ministerial-level engagement with the Crown Dependencies since the referendum to ensure that they are aware of the implications of any agreement reached during discussions between the UK and the EU. I confirm that this will continue to ensure that their interests are taken into account, particularly as the negotiations turn to the future economic partnership between the UK and the EU.