



26 FEB 2018

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THE PRIME MINISTER

22 February 2018

*Dear Andrew*

Thank you for your letter of 24 January regarding the role of the devolved administrations in the EU exit negotiations.

As I set out in my speech at Lancaster House in January of last year, we are committed to securing a deal that works for the entire United Kingdom – for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and all parts of England. Throughout discussions, UK Government will negotiate on behalf of the whole of the UK and, as we look to the next stage of negotiations, we will continue to engage the devolved administrations.

We have been clear from the start that the devolved administrations should be fully engaged in this process and Government Ministers have held several meetings with the leaders of Northern Ireland's political parties about Brexit. Officials have also been engaged with their counterparts in the Northern Ireland Civil Service to discuss a number of issues, without prejudice to the views of an incoming Northern Ireland Executive.

Ultimately, we need to get devolution up and running again in Northern Ireland. The people of Northern Ireland need strong political leadership, underpinned by a locally elected and democratically accountable Executive and Assembly. That is why the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has reinstated a short, intensive set of political talks to restore a full power sharing administration in Northern Ireland. She is working closely with the parties and, where appropriate, the Irish Government to ensure that these talks are a success.

*Yours ever*

*Andrew*

Dr Andrew Murrison MP