The Rt Hon. the Lord McFall of Alcluith
SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office
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28 February 2018

Dear David

Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit

I have had the honour of chairing the first two meetings of the Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit, a new mechanism bringing together the Chairs and other senior representatives of parliamentary Committees examining the implications of Brexit, in particular in the context of the devolution settlement, in the House of Commons, House of Lords, and the devolved legislatures.

We were very grateful that your ministerial colleague Chloe Smith MP was able to attend the last meeting of the Forum on 18 January, in particular given that she had only been in her new ministerial post for a very short period of time. This followed the appearance by Robin Walker MP at the first meeting of the Forum in October last year. The Forum intends to continue to meet on an approximately quarterly basis (or more frequently if necessary), varying its location as required. The next meeting of the Forum will be held in Edinburgh on Monday 26 March, and will be hosted by our Scottish Parliament colleagues.

While we may not necessarily invite Government ministers to participate in each of the Forum’s meetings (we may, for instance, invite UK Ministers to meet us in meetings hosted at Westminster and devolved ministers to meetings hosted by the devolved legislatures), the Forum welcomes the engagement of UK Government representatives in its activities. We would, for instance, very much welcome your attendance at a future meeting, to discuss the work that you are undertaking in terms of liaison with the devolved administrations in relation to the Brexit negotiations.

It would also be helpful for the Government to keep the Forum informed about the progress of these discussions, at the JMC(EN), in the JMC plenary, bilateral intergovernmental meetings and other relevant intergovernmental fora such as the British-Irish Council. As such, we would be grateful if you could write to us with an update on these discussions in advance of each meeting of the Forum, and at more frequent intervals should there be significant developments in the meantime (for instance feeding back on a meeting of the JMC(EN)). This will provide a valuable opportunity to keep parliamentarians in Westminster and the devolved legislatures informed, and to improve the Government to Parliament dialogue on these important issues.
I would be very happy to meet you to discuss this proposal, the work of the Forum, and any other ways in which we can work to enhance the dialogue between Government and parliamentarians across the UK in these important issues.

Kind Regards,

[Signature]

The Rt Hon Lord McFall of Alcluith
Senior Deputy Speaker

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