



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

9 May 2019

THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 1 April.


I agree that leaving the EU with a deal is the best way to ensure an orderly Brexit that is in everyone's interests. I know that the Ministry of Justice has been working closely with your officials to ensure that the Bailiwick's interests are fully understood across Government as we continue responsible preparations for all possible outcomes. I also understand that the Secretary of State for International Trade, The Right Honourable Liam Fox MP, met you in February to discuss the steps and commitments that the Bailiwick of Guernsey needs to take in order to have the UK's independent membership of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) extended to the Bailiwick.

As you know, on 10 April, I agreed an extension to the Article 50 process to the end of October. This extension could be terminated earlier if the Withdrawal Agreement is ratified. I continue to believe we need to leave the EU with a deal as soon as possible. Parliament has expressed its opposition to leaving without a deal, yet the legal default is that we will leave the EU without a deal on 31 October 2019 unless MPs can agree an alternative way forward. Therefore, as you note in your letter, we must continue to prepare for this scenario as a contingency.

This Government has defended strongly the longstanding constitutional convention that Parliament does not legislate for the Crown Dependencies on their domestic matters without their consent, save in exceptional circumstances and as a last resort. As I noted in my letter to you of 22 October 2018, the longstanding constitutional relationships between the UK and the Crown Dependencies will not change as a result of the UK's decision to leave the EU. The UK Government set this out in our July 2018 White Paper on the UK's Future Relationship with the EU, and I have also given assurances publicly to that effect.

I am grateful that you acknowledge the seriousness and good faith with which the UK takes the commitment made in the International Identity Framework Agreement of 11 December 2008 to seek to represent the interests of the Crown Dependencies internationally, even where those interests differ from those of the UK. This is particularly important as the UK works to depart from the European Union.

I am determined that we will achieve a future relationship which works for all, including the Crown Dependencies.

Yours sincerely


Deputy Gavin St Pier