



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development

Rt. Hon. The Lord Goldsmith QC
Chair, the House of Lords International Agreements Sub-Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

03 July 2020

Dear Lord Goldsmith,

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to brief your Committee on 17 June, and your subsequent letter of 22 June underlining our shared commitment to working cooperatively to support parliamentary scrutiny of international agreements. I'm glad both you and the Committee found the discussion useful and constructive, and I look forward to further conversations in future. Following the UK's exit from the EU, the International Agreements Sub-Committee has an important scrutiny role to play in relation to international agreements.

As you are aware, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is leading a process of reviewing the procedures around the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act (CRaG), which lays out the provisions for parliamentary scrutiny of international agreements. We will need to consult colleagues across Government before responding to your inquiry report in full, including the issues raised in your letter of 22 June.

At this point, I would like to reiterate my comments made before your Committee, namely that this Government welcomes and respects Parliament's role in scrutinising international agreements. Timely, robust scrutiny undoubtedly leads to better treaty making.

I wish you all the best with your report and, as highlighted above, look forward to the further discussions in due course.

Yours ever,

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON
Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth
Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict