



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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29 August 2023

Dear Alicia,

Thank you for sending me the joint statement of 6th August concerning Serbia-Kosovo relations, co-signed by you and other Parliamentarians, sent also to Lord Peach.

The UK was the first to recognise Kosovo as a sovereign country. We welcome the progress that Kosovo has made as a young democracy following its independence, and are proud of the UK's continuing contribution to this.

As I said in my letter to you of 31 July, I have underlined to the Prime Ministers of both Kosovo and Serbia their shared responsibility for de-escalating tensions to enable a return to the EU-facilitated Dialogue. Since that letter, Lord Peach visited Belgrade in August and has reiterated this message to Serbia's leadership.

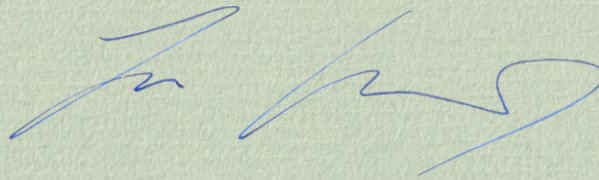
We are pleased to see the reduction in the number of Kosovo Police in the vicinity of municipal buildings as well as regular joint KFOR/EULEX/Kosovo Police security assessments, as recently agreed with the EU. We continue to work with both countries, alongside international partners, to focus on de-escalation and on working to create the conditions needed for new municipal elections in the four northern municipalities, and for implementing the commitments in the Brussels-Ohrid agreement.

We will continue to deliver robust messages in private and in public, as we have done in recent weeks and months. This has included condemning the attacks on NATO KFOR personnel, and calling on Serbia to support efforts to hold to account those responsible; publicly calling for the release of the three Kosovo Police officers detained by Serbia; and, setting out our concerns about the resignation of a number of newly recruited Kosovo Serb Police officers.

You rightly highlight the importance of working with both Serbia and Kosovo to support them in normalising their relations and on their Euro-Atlantic path. The UK wants a positive, modern and forward-looking relationship with both countries. At the same time, we remain cognisant of the risks to peace and stability across the Western Balkans region. With our partners, we regularly review the robustness of the international

deterrence framework which has been in place since the 1990s in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in Kosovo. The UK contributes peacekeeping troops to KFOR, and will continue to do so. In BiH, the UK is a member of the Peace Implementation Council that oversees implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement and contributes to the NATO office in Sarajevo. We remain fully and robustly committed to ensuring a safe and secure environment for all citizens and communities in Kosovo and BiH.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Cleverly', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

THE RT HON. JAMES CLEVERLY MP
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Secretary