



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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The Rt Hon Lord Peter Goldsmith KC

Chair, International Agreements Committee

House of Lords

London

SW1A 0PW

27 January 2026

Dear Lord Goldsmith,

**Notification of the UK's Signature of the Council of Europe Convention on the
International Claims Commission for Ukraine**

I am writing to inform the Committee that the United Kingdom has now signed a Council of Europe Convention to establish an International Claims Commission for Ukraine. This Convention, provisionally approved by the Ad hoc Committee on the Establishment of a Claims Commission for Ukraine (CAHEC) and subsequently adopted by the Committee of Ministers, was opened for signature at a Diplomatic Conference which I attended on behalf of the Foreign Secretary in The Hague on 16 December 2025. The Convention has been subject to scrutiny by Parliamentarians through the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where Lord Keen served as Rapporteur.

The Claims Commission is designed to help address the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The UK has consistently supported efforts to ensure accountability, including through its foundational role in the Register of Damage – established under an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe – which documents claims arising from the conflict. The UK currently chairs the Conference of Participants of the Register in Strasbourg. The Convention aligns with the UK's commitment under the 100 Year Partnership Agreement to continue working towards the establishment of an international compensation mechanism that provides redress for damage resulting from Russia's actions in Ukraine.

The Commission will be an administrative body with international legal personality established under the auspices of the Council of Europe and headquartered in the Netherlands. It will assess claims for damage arising from Russia's internationally wrongful acts committed in or against Ukraine since February 2022. These claims may include personal injury, property damage, economic loss, and environmental harm,

among others. Nearly 90,000 claims have already been submitted to the Register, with estimates suggesting up to ten million potential claims.

The UK has played an active role in the development of the Convention, participating in three preparatory meetings and four formal rounds of negotiations alongside over 50 states and the European Union. The final text reflects extensive multilateral engagement and has been assessed by the UK negotiating team as meeting our national interests – particularly in promoting accountability for Russia's actions - and securing a broad international coalition of support, which is essential for the Convention's legitimacy. The UK will contribute to the operational costs of the Commission in accordance with the agreed payment scales and will hold a permanent seat on the Financial Committee.

The Convention will be laid before Parliament for scrutiny in accordance with the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG). CRaG scrutiny will be undertaken before the implementing legislation is made.

The Convention will require the UK to grant privileges and immunities to the Commission and its staff which are generally consistent with the General Agreement on Privileges & Immunities of the Council of Europe. These would be given domestic legal effect through secondary legislation (Orders in Council) under the International Organisations Act 1968. The UK intends to exercise its right under the Convention to limit immunities in relation to motor vehicle traffic offences.

Following completion of scrutiny and of implementing legislation, the UK would ratify the Convention. This is anticipated to take place in the course of 2026.

I trust this notification will be of assistance to the Committee. Officials stand ready to provide further information or evidence as required or provide a private briefing to the Committee with more detail.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Stephen Doughty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

STEPHEN DOUGHTY MP
Minister of State for Europe, North America and UK Overseas Territories