



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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The Rt. Hon Dame Emily Thornberry DBE MP
Chair
Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
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10 March 2026

Dear Emily,

Thank you for your letter of 2 March, following the publication of the draft text of the UK-EU Treaty on Gibraltar. I welcome your committee's support for the Treaty, which will, as you say, bring much-needed certainty to the people of Gibraltar and the surrounding region, and secure their prosperity.

All sides are working at pace to enable the Treaty's provisional application before the EU's new Entry-Exit System comes into effect, which has a deadline of 10 April. Comprehensive implementation of the Treaty will continue at pace, with an expectation that the UK and EU will be able to ratify the Treaty in early 2027.

As you note, the Treaty will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny pursuant to the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010. The Government's position is that we consider the existing framework for treaty scrutiny appropriate, providing sufficient flexibility to enable Parliament to undertake effective scrutiny prior to ratification of a treaty. We will proceed in accordance with that framework. Of course, should the Foreign Affairs Committee wish it, I would be happy to appear before it to answer any questions your members might have.

Furthermore, I'm pleased to confirm that my officials will be briefing Foreign Affairs Committee and Defence Committee officials today (10 March) to discuss in detail the provisions of the Treaty, its implementation and ratification. This builds upon successive engagements that we have had with both the Foreign Affairs Committee and Parliamentarians since Political Agreement in June, including the Foreign Secretary's latest appearance before the FAC on 16 December 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Doughty MP
Minister of State for Europe, North America and UK Overseas Territories