



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

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Lord Jay of Ewelme GCMG  
Chair, Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland Sub-  
Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0AA

14 March 2022

Dear Lord Jay of Ewelme,

Following the decision to transfer EU exit responsibilities to the FCDO, I am writing to reaffirm the importance my department places on parliamentary scrutiny.

I value highly the substantial expertise your Committee possesses on the Protocol and the essential role it plays in scrutinising the work of the FCDO in this area.

As you know, the FCDO already has a commitment to a number of select committees in both Houses. Due to my official travel and other departmental obligations, I hope you will understand that it will not be possible for me to commit to the frequency of appearances agreed to by Lord Frost shortly before his departure. I hope, however, that with the support of the Minister for Europe and North America and other members of my team, we can fulfil our obligations to your Committee in a way that meets your needs.

So that I can be sure that the FCDO provides support to each Committee with an interest in its work, and subject to any unforeseen commitments, I can confirm that I or the Minister for Europe and North America (and other members of the FCDO ministerial team if appropriate) will be available to give evidence when invited.

I would also like to propose that the Department supplements those more formal evidence sessions with the offer of more informal briefing at ministerial and senior official level where that would be helpful. In this way, you are kept up-to-date on policy developments that would be of interest.

I look forward to working with your Committee in the future and welcome your views on FCDO policy. I would be delighted to hold an introductory meeting with you to discuss the work of your Committee, at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

**THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP**  
**Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Secretary**