

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

13 December 2019

Dear *Prime Minister,*

On behalf of the government of Guernsey, I wish to congratulate you on your successful re-election as the Member of Parliament for Uxbridge and South Ruislip, the success of the Conservative Party in forming a majority government and subsequently you continuing as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. It was a pleasure to meet you briefly in November before the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your government, and I hope we will have the opportunity to meet again in the near future.

Historic constitutional relationship - autonomy and independent identity

As I said in my letter to you of 24th July 2019, following your appointment as Prime Minister, the Bailiwick of Guernsey ('the Bailiwick') comprises three jurisdictions, each of which are territories in Her Majesty's realm. The islands of the Bailiwick (namely Guernsey, Alderney and Sark) each having their own autonomous legislatures, executives and judiciaries. Our constitutional relationship with the Crown, which has stood for more than 800 years, includes the constitutional rule that the UK Parliament does not legislate for the islands on domestic matters without our consent.

The Bailiwick is neither part of, nor a former colony of, the UK. However, due to our historic and special relationship with the Crown, the UK government remains responsible for our formal international relations and defence. Whilst an obvious challenge, this responsibility exists even where the islands of Bailiwick's interests differ from those of the UK. Previous governments have taken this responsibility very seriously, in accordance with the international identity framework agreed more than 10 years ago between Guernsey and the UK.

I welcomed your letter, dated 9th September 2019, which recognised the deep historical relationship in which we work collaboratively together on matters of mutual interest and acknowledged that the UK government does not intervene in the domestic affairs of the

Channel Islands and the Isle of Man without consent. This recognition is reassuring, particularly in light of ill-considered attempts by some backbench MPs during the last parliament to legislate directly for the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man on the topic of registers of beneficial ownership of companies, most recently by way of an amendment to the Financial Services (Implementation of Legislation) Bill, which I highlighted in my previous letter to you.

Constitutional precedents have been tested and stretched over the last 12 months or so as a result of the tensions wrought on the UK's political system, as it has attempted to respond to the result of the Brexit referendum. The government of Guernsey wishes to ensure that there can be no ambiguity in the future about our constitutional position. This is a conversation which I will pick up with the Lord Chancellor in due course.

Strong working relationship with UK particularly during Brexit

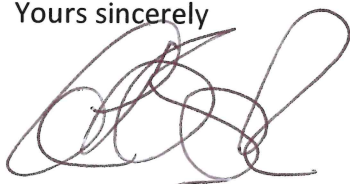
I was delighted to note that we both value the very strong working relationships between the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the UK government, which have deepened during the Brexit process to date and I welcome your assurances that we will continue to be engaged throughout the process as the UK seeks a future relationship with the EU. We will wish to ensure that Guernsey's participation in any future UK/EU deal is fair, practical and proportionate to our size and economy.

We understand your commitment to 'Get Brexit Done' and negotiating new relationships firstly with the EU and then with other countries. We also acknowledge the tight timeline for this to be achieved by the end of December 2020. Guernsey began to prepare for its part in this next phase before the UK's election so that we can act swiftly, where needed. I hope to participate positively and, where relevant, to add value to the British family's offering.

I am keen to continue the positive engagement between the UK and the Bailiwick through regular meetings between officials and Ministers as the Brexit process enters the next phase. It is vital that the interests of Guernsey and the Bailiwick as a whole are strongly and accurately represented during negotiations for the UK's future relationship with the EU. At this time I would welcome your commitment in that regard.

It is appreciated that over the coming months you will have many demands on your time as you work to get Brexit done. However, I would greatly value the opportunity to meet briefly with you to discuss how our strategic and economic relationship with the UK can develop as part of the British family once the UK has left the EU.

Yours sincerely



Deputy Gavin St Pier
Chief Minister of Guernsey/*Le Prumier de Giernes*

cc: The Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice