



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Constituent,

**A Response to the Border Between Scotland & Northern Ireland Campaign**

Thank you for contacting me about the possibility of border checks between Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Protocol on Northern Ireland will only come into force should the UK and the EU fail to agree a trade deal. Both sides are, however, legally committed in good faith to reaching an agreement on their future relationship by the end of the implementation period in December 2020.

The Withdrawal Agreement explicitly states that there is nothing in the Protocol that prevents the UK from ensuring 'unfettered market access' for goods travelling from Northern Ireland to the rest of the UK. I know the Government does not intend to carry out checks on these movements of goods but some practical information may need to be provided electronically.

Under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the UK's territorial sea extends to 12 nautical miles from its coast. This will not change as the UK leaves the EU and I am not aware of any effect on the movement of pleasure craft.

The provisions on consent in the Northern Ireland Protocol are designed to ensure that the arrangements are acceptable to the people of Northern Ireland. The province will be directly affected by the Protocol and it is only right that those living there should have say on its continued operation.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt. Hon. Alister Jack MP**  
**Dumfries and Galloway constituency.**