



Home Office

The Rt Hon Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC
MINISTER OF STATE

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Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Senator Feinstein

Thank you very much for agreeing to see me at short notice last week. It was a great pleasure to meet you, and I was very encouraged by your support for ratification of the 2003 UK/US Extradition Treaty. I know that you are a good and long-standing friend of the UK, and am very grateful for that.

As I explained on Thursday, the three year delay in ratifying the treaty has given rise to adverse comment in the UK as well as scepticism about whether the US will ever ratify the treaty, given that it has already received much of the benefit that the treaty brings. This affects our wider relationship and it will benefit both our countries if the treaty is ratified quickly. Senate approval by October, when the Police and Justice Bill returns to the Commons, is of paramount importance. What is at stake is not only the continued status of the US as a "trusted partner" for extradition but also the perception in the UK of how our relationship works in practice.

As you know, the purpose of the treaty is to modernise extradition arrangements between the US and the UK, putting them on the same footing as our arrangement with other trusted partners. The treaty is not aimed at speeding up extradition from the US of people suspected of involvement in terrorism connected with Ireland. I hope I was able to satisfy you that the concerns about the treaty raised by certain Irish/American groups are entirely groundless. I enclose further information on this point.

I count on your active support for the treaty ratification. In our meeting you agreed to speak to Senator Dodd as well as to other Democrats, in support of speedy ratification.

Thank you, in advance, for agreeing to help us with an issue of such importance to both our countries.

Yours sincerely
Baroness Scotland

BARONESS SCOTLAND QC