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THE PRIME MINISTER

8 May 2021

I write to congratulate you on your success in the Scottish Parliament election, in anticipation of your re-appointment as First Minister.

I believe passionately that the interests of people across the UK and in particular the people of Scotland are best served when we work together. We have shown that through the vaccine roll-out. The UK Government's ability to procure vaccines at scale has benefited people in all parts of our country. The dedicated and hardworking staff of NHS Scotland have ensured jabs have been put into arms from Gretna to John o' Groats. This is Team UK in action, and I recommit the United Kingdom Government to working with the Scottish Government in this cooperative spirit.

Along with countries around the world, the UK faces challenges unprecedented in our history. As we continue to chart our way out of the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must look towards recovery. This will be a difficult journey. While the UK's broad shoulders have supported jobs and businesses the length of the country, we know that economic recovery will be a serious shared responsibility because the pandemic's damage runs deep. COVID-19 has also posed significant challenges for our public services, from hours of lost school learning, to backlogs in the NHS and courts. Overcoming them will require us to show the same spirit of unity and cooperation that marked our fight against the pandemic.

To that end, and reflecting your commitment to focus on recovery, I would like to invite you to join me, UK Government colleagues and others at a summit meeting to discuss our shared challenges and how we can work together in the coming months and years to overcome them. I will be writing in similar terms to the First Minister of Wales, and the First and deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland. We will all have our own perspectives and ideas - and we will not always agree - but I am confident that by learning from each other we will be able to build back better, in the interests of the people we serve.

The Right Honourable Nicola Sturgeon MSP