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THE PRIME MINISTER

6 July 2022

Dew Nicola,

Thank you for your letter of 28 June, regarding Scottish independence.

I have carefully considered the arguments you set out for a transfer of power from the UK Parliament to the Scottish Parliament to hold another referendum on independence. As our country faces unprecedented challenges at home and abroad, I cannot agree that now is the time to return to a question, which was clearly answered by the people of Scotland in 2014.


Our shared priorities must be to respond effectively to the global cost of living challenge, to support our NHS and public services as they recover from the huge disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to play our leading part in the international response to Russian aggression in Ukraine. These are common challenges across the United Kingdom, which deserve our full attention.

People rightly expect the UK and Scottish Governments to work collaboratively in their best interests - and that is what we are doing, as is evidenced by our productive call on Monday evening. We are co-operating on measures to ease the cost of living, and I hope we will soon have the chance, alongside colleagues from the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive, to discuss further action at the next Prime Minister and Heads of Devolved Government Council.

On COVID-19, we are maintaining the close collaboration begun during the acute phase of the pandemic, as we continue to navigate the next phase. On Ukraine, I am grateful for your ongoing support for the UK's response to Putin's brutality. The Scottish Government is making a significant contribution to our humanitarian response, through the innovative devolved government-sponsor route in our Homes for Ukraine scheme. The Scottish Government's contribution of £65 million to our further military support for Ukraine will help our gallant allies continue their fight. Moreover, our ministerial colleagues are strengthening and deepening their co-operation at all levels through the new Interministerial Groups.

On all fronts, we stand to achieve so much more for the people we serve by continuing to work together as partners.

Thank you, once again, for writing to me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Sturgeon', written in a cursive style.