



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

8 January 2018

Dear James

I was sorry to hear about your medical situation, which will require you to undergo surgery and a period of recuperation.

While it is typical of you that your first thought was not for yourself, but for your duties as a Cabinet Minister and public servant, it is absolutely right that you should put your health first, for your sake and that of your family.

As you say, this is an important moment for politics in Northern Ireland. We must continue to secure the positive outcome for Northern Ireland to which we have already made such progress in our Brexit negotiations, and all parties must redouble their efforts to re-establish devolved government through a Northern Ireland Executive. As you have shown in recent months, this is vital work which will demand long hours, hard effort, and complete focus.

I know how heavily you will have weighed your duty alongside your own medical needs – and what a good job you would have done were it not for them. It has been a pleasure to work alongside you, first at the Home Office and then in my Cabinet. You have undertaken some of the most important and demanding jobs in Government – Security Minister, Immigration Minister, and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland – with great diligence, determination, and good humour. I know that you will approach your forthcoming operation in the same way, and I very much look forward to working alongside you again when you are back to full health.

My best wishes go to you, Cathy and the children. I hope you have a speedy recovery.

Best wishes

The Right Honourable James Brokenshire MP