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As you know, the ministerial direction directing the Commission not to undertake any periodic reviews of the number and boundaries of Scottish local government areas for a 5 year period, which was made in 2017, expired on 31 March. My officials have therefore been discussing with the Secretary to the Commission the possible making of a new direction to extend this for another 5 years.

I am writing to let you know that I have discussed this with the Minister for Social Security and Local Government, Ben Macpherson MSP, and we have decided to make another such direction. This direction was made on 28 July, and directs the Commission not to carry out any reviews under section 14(1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 during the period from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2027.

My officials have sent a copy of the signed direction to the Secretary so that a copy can be placed on the Commission's website. Mr Macpherson is writing to COSLA and SOLACE to let them know that the direction has been made.

GEORGE ADAM

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