



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Business, Energy &  
Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Nicola Sturgeon  
First Minister  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

07 June 2019

Dear Nicola,

**MOVING THE DATE OF THE EARLY BANK HOLIDAY IN MAY 2020 FROM MONDAY 4 MAY TO FRIDAY 8 MAY TO COINCIDE WITH THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY**

Friday 8 May 2020 will be the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. This presents an opportunity to allow for people in the UK to take time to commemorate this historic occasion, and to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the second World War on behalf of us all. I am proposing to move the early May bank holiday from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May 2020. Moving the bank holiday will allow commemorative events to take place on the actual day of the anniversary. I plan to make the announcement of the change of date on 8 June. Moving the bank holiday will also allow for commemorative events to continue over the weekend and would raise awareness of this important moment in history.

In 1995, the early bank holiday was moved to Monday 8 May to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. There were celebrations and street parties across the UK. As well as marking the Allies' great victory in 1945, the bank holiday would also be an occasion to pay tribute to members of the UK Armed Forces who have served and continue to serve our country.

Moving a bank holiday is achieved by a Royal Proclamation under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971. However, this only extends to England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Scotland Act 1998 includes an exemption from this procedure. Any changes to a bank holiday in Scotland would need to be initiated and carried out by the Scottish Government. Recognising the UK-wide importance of the celebrations, it would be fitting if Scotland also joined in moving the bank holiday.

On this historic occasion we have the opportunity to allow for people in all nations and regions of the UK to pay a fitting tribute to our heroes of the second World War. I hope that you give full consideration to the proposal and I look forward to your reply.

*Yours ever*

**THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP**  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
First Minister of Scotland



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Thank you for letter of today, 7 June, informing me that you plan to announce tomorrow that next year's Monday, 4 May bank holiday will be moved to Friday, 8 May in England, Wales and Northern Ireland so that it coincides with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.

While it would have been helpful to have had rather more notice of your intention to make this announcement in order to alert those sectors which will be affected by the change, I do however agree that the official commemorations to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day will present an opportunity for all here in Scotland and further afield to remember and pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the struggle to defeat fascism and tyranny.

I have therefore asked my officials to take forward the necessary procedures to change the date of the bank holiday in Scotland from 4 May to 8 May next year.

**NICOLA STURGEON**