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8 June 2021

Thank you for your invitation to the 35<sup>th</sup> Summit meeting of the British Irish Council in Fermanagh.

It is with regret that while the current regulations may allow travel, cases in Scotland are still giving cause for concern. Therefore, I feel there is no option other than to attend virtually on this occasion.

My officials will be in contact regarding further arrangements, including the participation of other Scottish Ministers.

I look forward to meeting with you again.

**NICOLA STURGEON**