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Dear Colleague,

### **Commemorating 75th Anniversary of VE Day – 8 May 2020**

On the 8th May 1945, Allied Forces formally accepted Germany's surrender marking an historic moment in our nation's – and our world's – history. It marked the first celebration of Victory in Europe Day.

It is important that we commemorate this great occasion on its 75th anniversary. Honouring those who did their duty – whether on the battlefields of Europe or through their efforts and sacrifices here at home. To commemorate this momentous occasion and to honour all those who served so bravely, I have announced that the Early May Bank Holiday will move from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May 2020. I welcome this decision by the First Minister of Scotland, which means that we will jointly, across Scotland, England and Wales, honour the commitment and sacrifice of our Armed Forces in the defence of our Isles.

We want to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to pay a fitting tribute to the heroes of the Second World War. Moving the bank holiday will allow commemorative events to take place on the actual day of the anniversary.

The occasion will remember the contribution of British, Commonwealth and Allied armed forces personnel; those who contributed to the war effort and safeguarded the Home Front. As well as marking the Allies' victory in 1945, the bank holiday will serve as an opportunity to pay tribute to those who have served and continue to serve in the UK Armed Forces and their families.

Commemorative events will take place across the country, over the course of the three-day weekend, I look forward to participating in the 2020 celebrations, and am sure that you do too, whether in your constituencies or elsewhere in the country.

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