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Dear all,

I wanted to update you after our previous discussions on overseas electors. I am very pleased to confirm that on 5 July, the Government introduced the Elections Bill.

The Bill includes measures to deliver 'votes for life' and extend the franchise for UK Parliamentary elections to all British citizens living overseas who have been previously registered or previously resident in the UK.

In addition, the Government will facilitate participation by making it easier for overseas electors to remain on the register with an absent vote arrangement in place.

Expats will be able to follow the progress of the Bill through Parliament on the UK Parliament website.

Once enacted, I hope you and your colleagues can participate in communicating these changes to British communities abroad.

Yours ever,

Chloe Smith MP
Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution