The Commission is closely monitoring the ongoing reform process of the United Kingdom’s data protection legislation, including with respect to the aspects to which the Honorable Member refers to in her question. Whether and to what extent the amendments proposed on 18 July 2022 will affect the level of protection for personal data in the United Kingdom (UK) that was found adequate in the two Commission Decisions¹ of 28 June 2021 will ultimately depend on how the draft Data Protection and Digital Information Bill evolves throughout the legislative process, which is why the Commission will closely follow the debate in the UK Parliament.

The adequacy decisions provide for the necessary tools to react in case this reform would lead to problematic divergence under the adequacy standard. The Commission has the power to suspend, terminate or amend these decisions at any time. This can also be done immediately in case of justified urgency. In addition, and for the first time, the two adequacy decisions concerning the UK include a so-called ‘sunset clause’ pursuant to which these decisions will automatically expire four years after their entry into force. After that period, they may be renewed only if the UK continues to ensure an adequate level of data protection.