Leo Varadkar Media Briefing. Government buildings Friday July 28th

(Excerpts)

“There hasn’t been an economic Border since 1992,” he said.

“As far as this Government is concerned there shouldn’t be an economic Border. We don’t want one. It’s the [United Kingdom](https://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=United%20Kingdom&article=true), it’s Britain that has decided to leave and if they want to put forward smart solutions, technological solutions for Borders of the future and all of that that’s up to them.

“We’re not going to be doing that work for them because we don’t think there should be an economic Border at all. That is our position,” Varadkar continued.

“So we do not think it is in the interests of our country. We do not think it’s in the interests of Northern [Ireland](https://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=Ireland&article=true) or the United Kingdom that there should be an economic Border between our two countries or on our island and we’re not going to be helping them to design some sort of Border that we don’t believe should exist in the first place.

 “'I hope there won’t be any angry response from anyone. Anger isn’t a policy and anger doesn’t lead to solutions. But if anyone is angry it should be us.”

But we’re not going to get angry. We are going to try and find solutions that will benefit or at least minimise the damage to relations between Britain and Ireland, to the peace process and to trading links. But what we are not going to do is design a border for the Brexiteers.

“They are the ones who want a border, it is up to them to say what it is, to say how it would work and to first of all convince their own people, their own voters, that this is actually a good idea,” he said.

“So let them put forward their proposals as to how they think a Border should operate and then we’ll ask them if they really think this is such a good idea because I think it will have a very severe impact on their economy if they decide to go down that route”.