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Graham Simpson MSP
Convener
Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

19 March 2018

Dear Graham,

**UK WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (LEGAL CONTINUITY) (SCOTLAND)
BILL**

Thank you for your further letter of 15 March on the issue of the procedures for fees and charges under section 19 – 21 of the Bill.

I note your view that affirmative procedures would be appropriate for significant and material increases in fees and charges, and the Committee's suggestion that there should be amendments that set a threshold for increases in fees and charges above which the affirmative procedure should apply.

As stated in the letter of 15 March, the Government's view is that we would not support changes to sections 19 – 21 as the model for procedures for fees and charges in the Bill represents a standard pattern for such powers and robust governance arrangements and guidance on the level of fees are in place via the Scottish Public Finance Manual.

You also asked for examples of initial use of powers being subject to affirmative procedures and subsequent adjustments being subject to negative procedures. I have asked officials to contact your Clerk on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL RUSSELL

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