



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Joe FitzPatrick MSP
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Dear Joe,

I write to thank you and your officials for appearing before the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on Tuesday, 5 December. The Committee very much appreciated the information you provided on a number of issues relevant to the Committee's work. I have set out below the main points on which you offered to come back to the Committee with further information.

Instruments in relation to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union

The Committee asked about the exercise the Government is undertaking to identify the range and scale of deficiencies that might be needed to be fixed by instruments under the EU (Withdrawal) Bill.

The Committee noted that the Government anticipated the first results of this exercise would be available early in the new year and that these results would be shared with parliamentary authorities at an official level in the first instance. The Committee welcomes this commitment to share this information.

Historic Commitments

The Committee asked about the action the Government is taking to comply with the historical commitments outstanding from previous parliamentary years.

The Committee noted that there are now 14 such commitments outstanding and that the Government was undertaking an exercise to check whether these commitments still require action and, if so, how they can be met. The Committee welcomes the Government's intention to report back early in the new year setting out how it will meet these historic commitments.

Consolidation of Council Tax instruments

The Committee sought an update about what action the Government proposed to take to consolidate the Council Tax Reduction (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and the Council Tax Reduction (Stage Pension Credit) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

The Committee noted that the Cabinet Secretary intends to report back to the Committee on the timescale for consolidating these instruments and welcomes the Minister's commitment to ensure that the Committee is kept informed of progress on this issue.

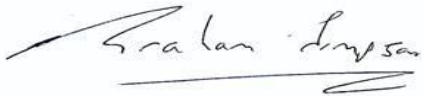
Framework bills

Finally, the Committee suggested that the parliamentary timetable should recognise the different nature of framework bills and that more time should be allocated to them than non-framework bills.

The Committee was pleased to note that the Minister agreed this suggestion had merit and would be grateful if the Minister would give further consideration to this matter.

The Committee would be pleased to welcome you back to the Committee to discuss these issues in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graham Lyson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee