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Graeme Dey MSP
Convenor
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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20 December 2016

Dear Graeme,

I am writing to update you on latest steps to prepare for Scotland taking control of the management of Crown Estate assets in Scotland.

A few days ago, I wrote to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, expressing my disappointment that the revised draft transfer scheme they shared with us late last month – over a year since we received the first draft - was still incomplete. Furthermore, I expressed concern that not all the points which were flagged after many months of official-level discussion had been addressed. However, because of the very challenging timetable to achieve the target transfer date of April, I suggested that I would be prepared to agree the transfer scheme, if it includes a fully independent review process for disputes.

The Order in Council which will formally establish the interim body is expected to be approved at a meeting of the Privy Council in February (there is no meeting in January).

Finally, the public consultation on the long-term arrangements for management of the Crown Estate assets is now due to be launched in early January.

I hope you find this update helpful.

Yours,



ROSEANNA CUNNINGHAM