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Dear Mr Mcintosh

Following my letter of 23 March 2020 to the Convener of the Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Committee, which was copied to you, I am writing to you with an update on action that the Scottish Government is taking in relation to implementation of the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Act 2020, in light of UEFA's decision to postpone EURO 2020 until summer 2021.

I would like to confirm that the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Act 2020 (Ticket Touting Offence) (Exceptions for Use of Internet etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 have now been withdrawn. This has been done because the ticket touting offence relates to a Championship in 2020, which is no longer taking place, and so there is no need to provide for exceptions to the offence through these regulations.

It has not been possible to withdraw the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Act 2020 (Trading and Advertising) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 as these were approved by Parliament on 18 March 2020. As the prohibited times specified in these regulations are during June and July 2020, if made, it would be possible for the trading and advertising offences to be committed when the Championship is not taking place. In order to ensure that this does not happen, I would like to inform you that my intention is not to sign these regulations. I understand that not signing regulations that have been approved by Parliament will happen very infrequently, however, I think that it is the most appropriate course of action in this case to ensure that there are no trading or advertising restrictions on businesses in Glasgow this summer. I would be happy to discuss this with you if required.

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Finally, the Scottish Government is not revoking the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Act 2020 (Compensation for Enforcement Action) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, which follow the negative procedure. Having these regulations in force will have no impact on businesses or the public during 2020 but it would be helpful to have these in place if rights protection legislation is required in 2021 when the Championship is now scheduled to take place.

As indicated in my previous letter, once the position is clearer the Scottish Government will engage with the Scottish Parliament on future legislation to help to ensure successful delivery of the Championship in 2021, as appropriate.

I have copied this letter to the Convener of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee and the Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee. I hope that this information is helpful in setting out action that I am taking in relation to these three sets of regulations at this unprecedented time.

Best Regards

Ben Macpherson

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