

Der Generalsekretär

Mr David McGill
Clerk/Chief Executive
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

D 309529 16.10.2020

Dear Mr McGill,

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the excellent cooperation between the Scottish Parliament and the European Parliament over the 20+ years that we have operated an office in Edinburgh. The relationship between our institutions has flourished and the European Parliament truly values the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, something that we are very much looking forward to continuing to nourish and develop in the future. The European Parliament is committed to engagement with Scottish public institutions at all relevant levels now and in the future.

As the UK has formally left the European Union, a decision that the European Parliament regrets but accepts, and as we get closer to the end of the transition period, the European Parliament is faced with the necessity to review our administrative organisation in the UK. This review is also an opportunity to adapt our organisation to the new realities of flexible working arrangement that will have to be a natural part of any organisational plan for the future, given the current situation.

Taking all administrative challenges that face us as an institution into account, as well as the current state of negotiations between the EU and the UK regarding the future relationship, the European Parliament finds itself unable to continue its operation of an office in Edinburgh after the end of the transition period. This, however, represents a new beginning for relations between the European Parliament and all our Scottish partners. I assure you that our current Head of Office, Per Johansson, although administratively connected to the UK European Parliament Liaison Office in London as of January next year, will remain your dedicated point of contact. He will be looking forward to, together with the team in London led by Susanne Oberhauser, continuing the excellent cooperation we have enjoyed in the past.

I myself remain committed to continuous future cooperation and partnership with yourself and your administration, and hope that I will be able to pay you a visit during the latter part of this year. I would very much appreciate if you could kindly share this letter with the Presiding Officer and with the Convener of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by several loops and a final flourish.

Klaus WELLE