



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Right Honourable Alister Jack
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**Local Government and Communities
Committee**

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Dear Mr Jack,

The Local Government and Communities Committee takes lead responsibility in [the scrutiny of City Region Deals](#) in the Scottish Parliament and, since its 2017-2018 Committee inquiry, has maintained a watching brief, holding periodic evidence sessions to assess their progress.

As you will be aware, as part of its inquiry, the Committee heard from both the Scotland Office's Lord Duncan and Keith Brown MSP, then Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, on [22 November 2017](#).

I refer you to correspondence with your predecessor of [20 December 2018](#) and [17 January 2019](#) on arranging for a representative of the Scottish Office to give evidence on how Deals have progressed since our inquiry concluded. Following receipt of Mr Mundell's response indicating his willingness to attend, Committee clerks were in contact with the Scotland Office seeking confirmation of a suitable date. The Committee appreciates that the last few months at Westminster have been unusually busy, but it is still disappointing that the Scotland Office was not, in the end, able to confirm a date with us.

The Committee discussed its work programme this week, shortly after a fact-finding visit to Stirling University to meet local partners in the Stirling and Clackmannanshire Deal. We agreed once again to extend to the Scotland Office an invitation to provide oral evidence on the progress of Scottish City Region Deals jointly with the Scottish Government. The aim of the session would be to help us ascertain how well the UK and Scottish Governments are collaborating on various deals. It would also provide an opportunity for the Committee to question how the recently reformed UK Cabinet is taking Deals forward as part of its priorities for government.

I hope you would agree with me that the UK and Scottish Government's joint work on City Region Deals is a matter of immense public interest and that you will therefore respond positively to this invitation.

An invitation to provide joint evidence is also going to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity.

If your officials have any questions regarding this meeting, or any queries as to a mutually agreeable date and time for an evidence session then the clerks to the Committee would be happy to help on the contact details set out above.

Kind regards,

James Dornan MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee

C.C. Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity