



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Michael Russell MSP
Minister for UK Negotiations on
Scotland's Place in Europe
Scottish Government

via email:

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**Local Government and Communities
Committee**

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Dear Minister

I am writing to you on behalf of the Local Government and Communities Committee, which recently undertook an evidence session on the implications for Scottish Local Government of the United Kingdom Leaving the European Union.

During what was a very informative session, the Committee explored a number of issues with those who attended as set out below. The Committee would be grateful if you could provide answers to the questions below which arose from the Committee meeting.

- What consideration the Scottish Government is giving to how European Structural Funds and other sources of European funding might be replaced following the UK's departure from the European Union?
- Given that local authorities are lead delivery agents for around £107 million of structural fund projects for the 2014-2020 programmes (around 30% of funding drawn down to date), is the Scottish Government confident that, during a financially challenging period for local government, the necessary match funding will be available to allow Scotland to commit its full structural fund allocation before the UK leaves the EU?
- What consideration the Scottish Government has given to how powers which will no longer be areas of EU competence will be devolved and whether this devolution will extend to giving new powers to Scotland's local authorities?
- What consideration the Scottish Government has given to the potential impact on Scottish local government – both in terms of local economies and labour supply - of reduced migration in the event of changes to freedom of movement rules when the UK leaves the EU?
- What impact leaving the EU might have with regard to Scotland's requirement to observe EU State Aid and Public Procurement rules and whether the

Government considers changes in procurement rules could provide an opportunity to benefit local business and workers?

The Official Report of the session, which took place on 14 December, is available on the Committee's webpage here:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10697>

The Committee heard that stakeholders had had varying levels of engagement with both the Scottish and UK Government and UK Government regarding negotiations over the UK leaving the European Union. The Committee notes that stakeholders would welcome further dialogue with both Governments and would welcome further information regarding ongoing dialogue with COSLA, STUC and SOLACE.

All those who attended on 14 December agreed that all members of civil society and tiers of government throughout Scotland and the UK should have a voice in contributing to negotiations on leaving the European Union. COSLA confirmed that it would wish to be embedded in the process rather than just a consultee. The STUC agreed it would like to see a more formal process whereby civil society, including themselves, COSLA, along with local government have a formal role in negotiations and the process. The Committee would welcome further information on how the Scottish Government will involve all those referred to above in developing Scotland's position as the negotiations develop.

The Committee would welcome an early response to this letter. Should you have any further questions then please get in touch with the Clerking Team on the contact details provided above.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Doris". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Doris MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee