



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rt Hon David Mundell MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
UK Government

**Local Government and Communities
Committee**

T3.60

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 6037

Calls via RNID Typetalk: 18001 0131 348 6037

Email: LocalGovernmentandCommunities@parliament.scot

20 December 2018

Dear Secretary of State

Local Government and Communities Committee: City Region Deals

I draw your attention to the letter of 26 June 2018 from my predecessor as Convener, Bob Doris MSP, to Lord Duncan of Springbank, which is attached for convenience. In it, the Committee repeats its invitation to the Scotland Office to provide evidence in person on City Region Deals, following the evidence session of 13 June 2018 at which the then Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown MSP was present but there was no Scotland Office representation. I note that for various reasons it has not yet been possible for the Scotland Office to take up this invitation.

Following the Committee's most recent discussion of its work programme earlier this month, I am writing to restate this invitation and express the Committee's hope that the Scotland Office will be able to take it up in the early part of 2019. In the Committee's view, we are entering a new and important phase in the scrutiny process around City Region Deals, as sufficient time has now elapsed to enable analysis of the impact of the first generation of Scottish Deals and to consider what lessons can be learned to help ensure effective delivery of the policy in future, so as to optimise its positive effect. For these reasons, the Committee would be keen to hear the Scotland Office's perspective on the impact of Deals so far and its view on the future direction of policy in this area.

Another key consideration in relation to City Region Deals is the effectiveness of cooperation between the UK and Scottish Governments in delivery of this shared policy. During its work programme discussion, the Committee also agreed to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity to give evidence

on Deals, and clerks to the Committee have been in touch with officials to pass this invitation on. The Committee would warmly welcome representatives of both Governments giving evidence jointly early in the New Year, if this were practicable, as the last joint evidence session (at which Mr Brown and Lord Duncan were present) was considered to be interesting and informative. The clerk to the Committee would be pleased to assist officials in both administrations in seeking to arrange a suitable date and time for this session.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

James Dornan MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee



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Lord Duncan of Springbank
Parliamentary Under Secretary of
State for Scotland

By email
enquiries@scotlandoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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6037

Email: LGCCCommittee@parliament.scot

26 June 2018

Dear Lord Duncan

As you will be aware, the Local Government and Communities Committee undertook a comprehensive inquiry into City Region Deals last year, culminating with the publication of [its report on 9 January 2018](#).

Following consideration of the [Scottish Government's response to its report](#) and a [Parliamentary debate held on 27 March 2018](#), the Committee agreed to continue to monitor the progress of City Region Deals with the Scottish and UK Governments (the latter of [which it received on 10 April 2018](#)) over the rest of the Session, in particular around—

- Delivery progress;
- Selection processes and transparency;
- Coverage and displacement;
- Monitoring and evaluation.

The first of these evidence sessions took place with Keith Brown, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work on 13 June 2018. As you can see from [the Official Report of the session](#), the Committee explored such issues as—

- Differences in funding between the UK and Scottish Government and the priorities of inclusive growth vs gross value added (GVA);
- The lack of a set timetable for the rollout of deals across Scotland;
- How to encourage joint working between councils;
- The availability, going forward, of single deals for smaller local authorities and whether this will disadvantage local authorities which have already joined city region deals;

- How the Glasgow deal is "retro-fitting" project selections to take account of inclusive growth;
- The length of time it has taken to agree a Stirling and Clackmannanshire deal and aspects of funding arrangements proposed by the UK Government in respect of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire deal.

It was unfortunate that you were unable to attend with the Cabinet Secretary at the meeting on 13 June, however, I note that you have agreed to attend at a later date and the Committee looks forward to arranging this in the near future. In addition to hearing from the UK Government, the Committee agreed at its meeting on 13 June to invite representatives from the Glasgow City Region City Deal to discuss with them progress against some of the issues highlighted above. The Committee also proposes to invite representatives of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire deal as it is the most recently announced deal following the Committee's inquiry, to explore how lessons have been learned from previously agreed deals.

The Clerks will therefore be in touch with you to discuss possible dates for an appearance before the Committee following the Summer Recess. If, in the meantime, you have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to contact the Clerks on the contact details provided above.

Kind regards,

Bob Doris MSP

Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee