

Deputy First Minister  
and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy  
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Bruce Crawford, MSP  
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Devolution (Further Powers) Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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15 December 2015

*Dear Bruce,*

Thank you for your further letter of 26 November on the Devolution (Further Powers) Committee report, "Changing Relationships: Parliamentary Scrutiny of Intergovernmental Relations". I agree that the Parliamentary debate on the Report provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the issues and I welcomed the opportunity to put on record the Government's commitment to openness and transparency in our inter-governmental relationships.

You asked me to confirm that the Government is content with Recommendation 3 of the Report, which considers the need for a written agreement on parliamentary oversight of these matters between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament. I can confirm that the Government is supportive in principle of this approach, subject to the need to both respect the views of other Governments involved and maintain confidentiality around discussions as and when appropriate.

I have asked that officials get in touch with the Clerk to the Committee to commence discussions in order that a draft can be agreed prior to dissolution.

*Yours,  
JS*

JOHN SWINNEY