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Rt. Hon Ken Macintosh MSP
Presiding Officer
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

09 March 2021

Dear Ken

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REPORTING ON THE CORONAVIRUS ACTS

I am writing in connection with the Scottish Government's regular reporting to Parliament on the Coronavirus legislation and to inform you of a change in arrangements for the sixth report covering the period, 1 February to 31 March 2021, necessitated by the upcoming campaign recess.

As you are aware, section 15 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 and section 12 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020 require the Scottish Government to review and report on the operation of the provisions in Part 1 of those Acts every two months. The fifth report was laid in Parliament and published on 11 February 2021.

The legislation requires that these reports, which must include details of the status of each provision at the end of the reporting period, are to be laid no later than 14 days after the expiry of a reporting period. However, the sixth reporting period will not end until 31 March, and, due to the timing of the forthcoming elections, Parliament will, of course, be in campaign recess after 24 March and the Office of the Clerk will be closed. It is therefore the Scottish Government's intention to publish the sixth report by 14 April, and to lay that report in Parliament at the first opportunity following the return of Parliament.

I am copying this letter to the leaders of the opposition parties, and to the Convener of the COVID-19 Committee.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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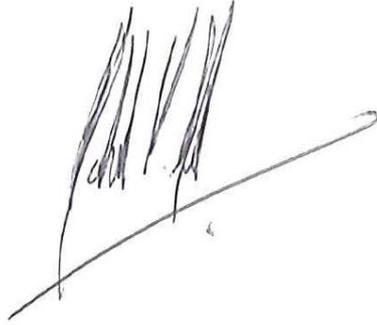


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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Russell', written over a long, thin horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

MICHAEL RUSSELL

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