



Foreign &  
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17 August 2015

Christina McKelvie MSP  
Convener  
European and External Relations Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

*Dear Ms McKelvie,*

**EU Referendum Bill and UK Government's agenda for EU reform**

Thank you for your invitation to give evidence to the European and External Relations Committee this autumn. I appreciate your Committee's interest in this subject, but regret that on this occasion I am unable to do so.

There are however plenty of other opportunities for representatives of the Devolved Administrations to engage on this matter. These include private meetings which the Foreign Secretary has offered to First Ministers to discuss EU reform and renegotiation, and my commitment to put the issue on the agenda at the Joint Ministerial Committee's Europe meetings. This issue is also under scrutiny by the UK Parliament, which of course includes MPs from Scotland, and indeed two SNP MPs are members of the European Scrutiny Committee. I feel therefore that this will provide your Committee with the information it needs, should it wish to look in detail at the issue.

THE RT HON DAVID LIDINGTON MP  
Minister for Europe