



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Rt Hon David Lidington
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7 September 2015

Dear Mr Lidington

EU referendum and UK Government's agenda for EU reform

Thank you for your letter of 17 August in which you decline to give evidence to the Scottish Parliament's European and External Relations Committee on the implications of the EU referendum and EU reform for Scotland.

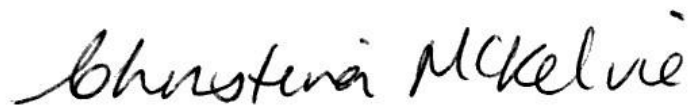
I have discussed your response with my Committee colleagues and we would like to invite you to reconsider your decision not to appear before the Committee. We believe that the EU referendum and EU reform will have significant implications for Scotland, and people in Scotland will be forming views on the value or otherwise of EU membership in the run up to the referendum. We therefore think that it is important that a cross-party committee of the Scottish Parliament should have the chance to consider the implications of the EU referendum and EU reform in a full and transparent manner that provides information to people who will be voting in the referendum.

In your letter you refer to the opportunities that the executive branch in Scotland and Scottish MPs in the House of Commons will have to become informed of the UK Government's proposals. However, we consider it important that the Scottish Parliament as an institution should have the opportunity to consider the issues surrounding the UK Government's proposals. We therefore hope that you will try to find an opportunity before the dissolution of the Scottish Parliament in March 2016,

whether in person or by video conference, to give evidence to us on this important issue.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider your position on this issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina McKelvie". The script is cursive and fluid, with a small flourish at the end of the name.

Christina McKelvie
Convener
European and External Relations Committee