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

By email: [europe@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:europe@scottish.parliament.uk)

*Dear Ms McKelvie,*

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

Thank you for your further invitation to give evidence to the European and External Relations Committee. I acknowledge that there is a strong interest in this issue in the Scottish Parliament.

While the Referendum Bill remains before the UK Parliament, any discussion of the issues with other stakeholders on the public record would be inappropriate and, by necessity, very limited. We are, however, considering the interests of all of the UK, and I am sure that the Scottish Parliament is communicating its views on this subject to the Scottish Government. In my previous reply I mentioned a number of opportunities for engagement between the UK and Scottish Governments on this issue. These discussions are taking place, as are comparable conversations with the Welsh and Northern Ireland Governments, and are providing us with greater clarity on the interests of the Devolved Administrations in the reform and renegotiation agenda.

Once the Bill has received Royal Assent, there may emerge areas where I or my officials are able to provide input closer to the level that your Committee would like. With this in mind I am willing to look at this matter again at that time.

**THE RT HON DAVID LIDINGTON MP**