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Rob Gibson MSP
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The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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2 March 2016

Dear Rob,

I am grateful for the interest you and the Devolution (Further Powers) Committee have shown in the devolution of the management of the Crown Estate's economic assets in Scotland. This is a significant element of the Smith Agreement and it is important that the issue receives appropriate scrutiny. At my most recent appearance in front of the Committee I said that I would write to you on whether the Scottish Parliament would be consulted on the Crown Estate Transfer Scheme.

As you know, the Crown Estate Transfer Scheme must be agreed by the Scottish Ministers before it can be made by the Treasury. No process is specified for that agreement and so it is for Scottish Ministers to decide how to proceed, including whether to consult the Scottish Parliament. However, any delay in agreeing the transfer scheme is very likely also to delay the date of the transfer of management functions, so I hope that matters can be agreed in good time.

The UK Government has worked to keep interested parties informed on this important issue and I am enclosing a copy of the recent letter from the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury to the Committee in relation to the draft Crown Estate transfer scheme and complementary draft Memorandum of Understanding.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury and to the Convenor of the Devolution (Further Powers) Committee.

Rt Hon DAVID MUNDELL MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND