Joan McAlpine MSP  
Convener, Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

19 March 2021

Dear Joan,

Many thanks for your letter dated 4 March 2021, regarding the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly.

I understand your concern that operation of the TCA has implications for policy areas which fall within the competency of the Scottish Parliament and I take note of your request that Members of the Scottish Parliament should be represented on the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly on the same terms as that afforded to other legislatures.

Discussions about how the UK delegation to the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) would work are at an early stage but House of Commons colleagues are aware of your concerns. The PPA will come into being at some point after the ratification of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, which as you know has been delayed following the extension of the period of provisional application until 30th April.

Regardless of the outcome of these discussions, the European Union Committee has always valued the close relations with the committees of the devolved legislatures, and I know the new European Affairs Committee and its sub-committee on the Protocol will want to continue these fruitful relationships.

I am copying this letter to Sir Oliver Heald MP.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Kinnoull  
Chair of the European Union Committee