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Bruce Crawford MSP  
Convener  
Finance and Constitution Convener  
Scottish Parliament  
EH99 1SP

14 October 2019

Dear Convener,

**REFERENDUMS (SCOTLAND) BILL: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT VIEW ON PROTECTED SUBJECT-MATTER**

I write with regard to the Presiding Officer's statutory duty under section 31(2A) of the Scotland Act 1998 (as amended), to decide whether any provision in a Bill relates to a protected subject-matter.

The Scottish Government considers that, on introduction, the Referendums (Scotland) Bill **does not contain** provision that relates to protected subject matter as defined by section 31(5) of the Scotland Act 1998 (as amended).

The reason is that the protected subject matters listed in that section all relate to elections and the return of members of the Scottish Parliament through elections. The Bill relates to referendums, which invite voters to express views on specific questions, but which do not elect members.

I am copying this letter to the Lord Advocate, and to the Minister in charge of the Bill.



**GRAEME DEY**

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