

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

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

Our ref: A26370595  
10 December 2019

Dear Bruce,

## REFERENDUMS (SCOTLAND) BILL – STAGE 3 – FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Referendums (Scotland) Bill was amended at Stage 2 to modify a number of aspects of the Bill, including the maximum civil penalty that the Electoral Commission can impose. However, the assumptions underpinning the expected income level from such fines remain unchanged from the original Financial Memorandum, and an updated memorandum is not necessary.

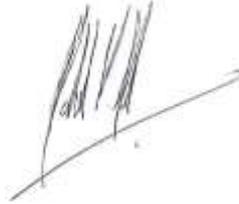
I would draw the Committee's attention to other amendments accepted at Stage 2 which would have an effect on the provision of cost estimates for future referendums. Section 1 of the Bill was amended so that a separate Bill would be required in all cases to make use of the rules set out in the framework. Any costs arising would therefore come from that separate, "trigger" Bill, rather than from the Referendums (Scotland) Bill. The trigger Bill would have its own Financial Memorandum which would set out the detailed costs of the specific referendum it provides for.

The categories of costs set out in the Financial Memorandum for the Referendums (Scotland) Bill still give a helpful overview of the areas in which costs would be incurred to deliver the administrative arrangements set out in the Bill.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

I hope that this information is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Russell', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**MICHAEL RUSSELL**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



Accredited  
Until 2020

