



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**The Presiding Officer**  
**Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP**

Bruce Crawford MSP  
Convener, Finance and Constitution Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
T3.60

2 May 2019

*Dear Bruce,*

**COMMON FRAMEWORKS**

I am writing on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body in response to the Finance and Constitution Committee's recent report on Common Framework.

At paragraph 43 of the report, the Committee brings to the SPCB's attention potential resource implications of the Parliament's scrutiny of complex frameworks, particularly where there may be divergence of policy across the UK in the post-EU period. The SPCB is very grateful for the Committee highlighting this issue and has agreed to incorporate this into its existing approach to ensuring the Parliament has the resources required to fulfil its various functions.

The Committee will be aware, through the SPCB's budget bids to the Committee in recent years, that the SPCB has taken an active role in monitoring the impact on the Parliament's scrutiny and legislative roles of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. Following the SPCB's submission in late 2017, the Committee agreed to additional staffing resources, (primarily in the Clerking, Legal and SPICe functions) for the 2018/19 and subsequent budgets and the Parliament keeps both the use of those resources and any emerging pressures under constant review. The Parliament's Constitutional Issues Board – made up of parliamentary officials – meets regularly and has this role within its remit. I understand that it has recently reviewed the operation of the additional resources previously secured and is now analysing the impact that different potential constitutional developments may have on those and existing resources.

The SPCB has asked the Board to incorporate the issues highlighted in the Committee's report into its ongoing monitoring role and to update the SPCB as the position becomes clearer over time.

Yours sincerely

**Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP**  
**Presiding Officer**