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Dear Mr Doris

#### **Islands Bill and Islands Deal**

The three Island Councils of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council were delighted to see the Islands (Scotland) Bill unanimously backed by MSPs at Holyrood on 30<sup>th</sup> May, and we would like to thank you for your support in passing this historic piece of legislation.

This was a great outcome for the Our Islands Our Future campaign led by the three Island Councils and one which will benefit all island communities across Scotland for decades to come. Following on from this success, our three Island Councils and partners are bringing forward proposals for an ambitious and far reaching Islands Deal which will form the basis of the next phase of our ever strengthening collaboration.

We are proud of the unique contribution our Islands make to Scotland and the United Kingdom but also recognise we can offer so much more with the right level of strategic investment. The Islands Deal creates the opportunity to realise this potential.

As Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee, we thought you would be interested to know that we recently presented a document setting out our strategic case and proposals for an Islands Deal to the Scottish and UK Government's Civil Servants leading on the growth deal process.

Our proposals are designed to maximise our "Islands' Advantage" and be transformational for our economies and communities. They aim to strengthen and expand the important and distinct role our Islands play in the Scottish and UK economies and enhance the international reputation of Scotland and the United Kingdom.

Given the strong links between our Islands Deal proposals and the remit of your Committee we would be delighted to provide you with further information on our plans for an Islands Deal if that was of interest.

Kindest regards



**Councillor James Stockan**  
Leader, Orkney Islands Council

**Councillor Roddie Mackay**  
Leader, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

**Councillor Steven Coutts**  
Leader, Shetland Islands Council

