



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

By e-mail only

**Rural Economy and Connectivity
Committee**

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Dear Committee Convener,

Scottish Government Digital Strategy

As you may be aware the Scottish Government published its Digital Strategy [Realising Scotland's full potential in a digital world: A Digital Strategy for Scotland](#) on 22 March 2017.

The Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee plans to hear evidence in May on the strategy in relation to the specific digital infrastructure and connectivity elements which fall within its remit. However, I would also like to bring the strategy to your attention as it has wide reaching policy implications which straddle the remits of several committees. It covers, for example, the promotion of the digital economy; public service reform; digital skills and preparing our young people for future work; tackling inequalities; and empowering communities.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution has overall responsibility for Scotland's digital strategy. However, the cross-cutting nature of the digital agenda is reflected in the distribution of Cabinet Secretary and related Ministerial responsibilities. In particular:

- Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills –cyber security and digital skills
- Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity – improving connectivity across Scotland
- Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs - digital participation
- Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work –promoting Scotland's digital economy

I hope that your Committee may be able to consider the implications of the digital strategy in relation to its remit and take these into account in future work programme planning.

I have sent this letter to the Conveners of the Education and Skills; Economy, Jobs and Fair Work; Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations as well as Equal Opportunities and Human Rights and Local Government and Communities Committees.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish at the end.

Edward Mountain
Convener