



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

Edward Mountain
Convener
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

rec.committee@parliament.scot

28 February 2019

Thank you for your letter of 7 February noting the issues which I undertook to give further consideration to at the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee meeting on 30 January.

In respect of references to the Strategic Board, the Strategic Board was set up to align and coordinate the activities of Scotland's enterprise and skills agencies. Accountability to the Strategic Board will come through South of Scotland Enterprise's statutory accountability to Scottish Ministers, and Ministers' requirements upon the agency to support the aims of the board. The chair of the interim South of Scotland Economic Partnership is currently a member of the Strategic Board and I expect the chair of South of Scotland Enterprise to become a member in due course. In light of this, governance tools such as a strategic guidance letter will be the most appropriate mechanisms to ensure close alignment with the Strategic Board and its aims.

I continue to reflect on the other matters discussed and would like to take into consideration the Committee's views as part of this. I therefore await the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill Stage 1 report with interest, and will update you in due course.

FERGUS EWING

