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Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
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11 September 2020

Dear Convener,

Following my appearance at the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee on 19 August 2020, I am writing to update you on recent progress in relation to the Reaching 100% (R100) programme North Lot contract.

As the Committee is aware, the award of the third and largest R100 contract, covering the north of Scotland and all of Scotland's 93 inhabited islands, has been on hold pending the resolution of a procurement challenge raised by Gigaclear Ltd in December 2019. I am pleased, therefore, to advise the Committee that the Scottish Government and Gigaclear Limited have agreed to settle the action related to this contract, effectively putting an end to this litigation. I can confirm that the case has now formally been dismissed.

I should stress that, due to the strictly confidential nature of the settlement agreement, I am unable to comment on either the terms of the agreement or the negotiations in reaching that agreement.

The Scottish Government will now focus on finalising the R100 North Lot contract award with BT Plc as soon as possible, being mindful of the need to do so before the end of December 2020, as discussed, and on thereafter progressing delivery of access to superfast broadband to people, businesses and communities in some of the most remote parts of Scotland.

I anticipate that the R100 North lot contract will indeed be signed by the end of this calendar year and Parliament will, of course, be updated further once this is complete.

*Kind regards*



**Paul Wheelhouse**

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