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Clare Adamson MSP
Convener of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

16 December 2025

Dear Clare,

Thank you for your letter of 11 November 2025 regarding the Committee's consideration of sporting events of National interest and for sharing the views expressed by the Scottish Football Association (SFA). I appreciate the continuing engagement on this matter and I welcome the valuable work of the Committee.

The Scottish Government remains clear that both women's and men's international football matches should be included within the listed events regime to ensure that these fixtures are accessible to the widest possible audience in Scotland. This reflects the strong public support for greater coverage of Scottish football and the views shared by many fans.

I recognise the need to strike the right balance between accessibility and the financial sustainability of the sport. As noted previously, income generated from broadcasting rights plays a vital role in supporting participation and development at all levels of the game. The Scottish Government fully acknowledges the concerns raised by the SFA.

It is important to note that the inclusion of any event in the listed events regime does not guarantee broadcast coverage, as rights holders are not obliged to offer events and broadcasters are not obliged to bid for them. Commercial arrangements remain a matter for rights holders and broadcasters, and we fully support that principle. Our intent is to maximise access and inclusivity, which is why we welcomed the outcome of the deal to broadcast all Scotland's men's international football matches in the run-up to the FIFA Men's World Cup 2026.

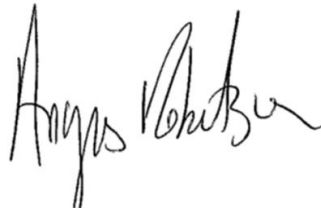
We are committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders, including the SFA, the UK Government, and Ofcom, to identify solutions that uphold both accessibility and sustainability, while maintaining the principle of free-to-air access for events of national significance.

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The Scottish Government will continue to represent Scottish interests across broadcasting and sport to ensure audiences receive the best possible service now and in the future. While broadcasting remains reserved, we remain committed to advancing those interests through ongoing engagement with broadcasters, Ofcom, and the UK Government.

I welcome the Committee's continued engagement and consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely



ANGUS ROBERTSON

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