



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee**

Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP  
Minister for the Constitution and European Union Relations  
UK Government

**1 October 2025**

Dear Minister,

### **Options for a legal mechanism for triggering any independence referendum**

The Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee has agreed to undertake a short inquiry to examine the options for a legal mechanism for triggering any independence referendum based on principles of certainty and democratic consent within the UK constitutional context.

To inform its inquiry, the Committee has agreed to seek the views of the UK Government as well as the Scottish Government.

The Committee would therefore welcome a written response from you and invites you to give oral evidence either in person or by video call prior to Christmas recess. The Committee clerks can be contacted by your officials to arrange a mutually convenient date.

It would be helpful to have a response by 31 October.

Yours sincerely,

**Clare Adamson MSP**  
**Convener**