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Scottish Parliament
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30 October 2025

Dear Convener

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Scottish Government's position on the legal mechanism for any independence referendum inquiry ahead of my appearance in front of you in December.

The Scottish Government has set out our view that it is for the people of Scotland to decide on their constitutional future in the publication [*Your Right to Decide*](#). I enclose a copy of the publication for information.

Your Right to Decide provides evidence of the consensus across the political spectrum on the voluntary nature of the Union before going into detail on the Scottish Government's view that the decision on whether a referendum should be held ought to be for the Scottish Parliament, empowered to make such decisions by the votes of people who live here.

It further outlines the Scottish Government's position that the Scottish Government secures a democratic mandate to negotiate with the UK Government a transfer of power for a lawful referendum whenever the people of Scotland, following a party's clear manifesto commitment to the holding of a referendum, return a Scottish Parliament that supports the holding of a referendum and a Scottish Government committed to delivering one.

The paper affirms that the precedent of 2011 demonstrates that it is for the people of Scotland to decide when a referendum is to be held, and that when they do it is for the governments of Scotland and the United Kingdom to take the steps required to facilitate that.

I look forward to working with the Committee on this issue and providing more detail when we meet 18 December.

Yours sincerely

ANGUS ROBERTSON

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