

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Graeme Dey MSP

Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

5 November 2025

Dear Minister,

Evidence Session on 28 October 2025

Thank you for attending the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 28 October 2025. Further to the <u>Official Report of that meeting being published</u>, the Committee wanted to write to confirm the commitments made to follow up, as well as to seek further clarification on one point.

Commitments to follow up

The Committee was grateful for your willingness to provide further information in writing to the Committee.

These commitments can be found in:

- column 10 (further information on updated processes and SI training),
- column 15 (further information on the timescales for a solution in relation to the Scotland Act 1998 (Specification of Functions and Transfer of Property etc.) Order 2019), and
- column 20 (keeping the Committee updated on discussions with UK Ministers in relation to LCM timetabling, particularly in relation to the Scottish General Election).

Further clarification

During the evidence session, the Committee also asked what updates could be provided on discussions between the Scottish and UK Governments about powers to make UK secondary legislation within devolved competence, and, in particular, what arrangements have been considered for notifying Parliament about that secondary legislation (cols 16-17). Discussion of this point became more focused however on LCM timetabling issues, and the Committee considered it would be helpful to get an update specifically on this point from the Scottish Government.

The Committee notes that in <u>recent correspondence</u>, the Scottish Government has confirmed its general position that "Scottish Ministers should have a formal role in

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any regulation-making powers that touch on devolved matters." However, the Committee is specifically interested in:

- (a) discussions about devolved powers being conferred on UK Ministers, and
- (b) consideration of the Scottish Parliament's scrutiny role in relation to the exercise of these powers

and what, if any updates there have been since the correspondence in January 2025 from the <u>Scottish</u> and <u>UK</u> Governments? At that time, the Scottish Government stated:

"The Scottish Government will also and [sic] consider with the UK Government the possibility of extension of SIP2 beyond Brexit related powers, or alternative arrangements to govern notification to the Parliament. However, that protocol was put in place to manage particular circumstances in which a large volume of SIs connected to Brexit was expected in a short period. More flexible and proportionate arrangements might suffice in the future."

While this final follow up point may be an iterative discussion, the Committee seeks an initial response on all of these questions by Thursday 27 November.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart McMillan MSP

Convener