



Economy and Fair Work Committee

Julia Lopez MP
Minister of State for Media,
Data and Digital Infrastructure

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Sent by email only

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1 July 2022

Dear Julia Lopez MP

The Economy and Fair Work Committee held an evidence session with Kate Forbes, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy, on broadband connectivity on [Wednesday 22 June 2022](#). During evidence, reference was made to the UK Government's Project Gigabit infrastructure funding of £5 billion for "hard to reach parts of the UK". The Committee agreed that I should write to you about this.

The Cabinet Secretary advised that Project Gigabit "has an arbitrary cost cap of £7,000. In other words, if it costs more than £7,000 to connect to a premises anywhere in the UK, the UK Government will not fund that." The Cabinet Secretary's point was that given Scotland's geographical spread, a cost cap is likely to have a disproportionate impact in Scotland and result in proportionately fewer "hard to reach" parts of Scotland being connected.

The Committee would be grateful for your response to that point and also to receive details of how much of the £5 billion fund will be allocated to Scotland and within what timescale.

I look forward to receiving your reply and have copied this letter to Alister Jack, MP, Secretary of State for Scotland for his interest.

Kind regards

Claire Baker MSP
Convener