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UK INFRASTRUCTURE BANK BILL

I am writing to let you know that the Scottish Government is considering the need to lodge a Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) in respect of the UK Government Infrastructure Bank Bill.

Scottish Parliament Standing Orders provide that an LCM should normally be lodged with the Scottish Parliament two working weeks after the introduction of a relevant Bill in Westminster. In the case of this Bill the deadline would be 25 May 2022.

The UK Infrastructure Bank's objectives are to help tackle climate change and support economic growth through investment in infrastructure. The UK Infrastructure Bill is relatively short comprising ten clauses and HM Treasury believe that six of those will be relevant to the LCM process as they could fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament

The purpose of the Bill is to place the UK Infrastructure Bill on a statutory footing and to place the Bank's objectives into legislation, creating transparency, accountability and governance. It will also remove any legal obstacles to the Bank's capacity to lend directly to local authorities for infrastructure purposes and give HM Treasury financial assistance powers specific to the Bank.

We are analysing the Bill and its implications and, if we conclude that an LCM is required, we intend to lodge this prior to summer recess or as soon as possible. My officials will keep in contact with yours regarding anticipated timescales for lodging the memorandum.

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I am copying this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy, Kate Forbes MSP, Claire Baker MSP, Convenor of the Economy and Fair Work Committee and Dean Lockhart MSP, Convenor of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

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