

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Economy and Gaelic
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Eaconamaidh agus Gàidhlig
Kate Forbes MSP
Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA



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The Scottish Parliament
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2 June 2025

INQUIRY INTO CITY AND REGIONAL GROWTH DEALS – RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE’S PUBLISHED REPORT

Dear Colin,

I am writing to the Economy and Fair Work Committee in response to the report published on 9 May 2025 following the inquiry into City and Regional Growth Deals.

I would like to acknowledge the substantial work the committee undertook for the inquiry and thank them for publishing their report. I also want to recognise the supportive engagement by partners in the enquiry and from those who took the time to submit written evidence. I welcome the recommendations the report outlines and am pleased to note the committee has acknowledged the successes the City and Regional Growth Deal Programme has had in supporting Scotland’s economic growth ambitions to date.

The report offers valuable insights and suggested areas of improvement for delivery of the Deals. My officials are reviewing each recommendation in detail and developing an action plan to address these, where appropriate. As we discussed in my evidence session, this is a partnership programme funded and governed between the Scottish and UK Governments and partner Local Authorities. Any changes to programme delivery or approach would therefore have to be agreed collectively. My officials and I will continue to work collaboratively with our UK Government counterparts to agree any appropriate actions that can be taken in response to the report’s findings and recommendations.

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I will write to the committee to provide a further update on the approach taken and status of addressing the recommendations in due course.



KATE FORBES

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