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10 June 2025

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> June regarding Artificial Intelligence.

As you are aware, the Scottish Government has committed in our Programme for Government to:

*“Ensure Scotland is a supplier/creator of AI, and not just a consumer of these transformational technologies. This requires us to ensure a balanced and self-sustaining ecosystem of AI start-ups, scale-ups, and larger suppliers, promote Scotland’s expertise internationally and attract more talent and investment to Scotland. To deliver this we will:*

- *Launch AI Scotland as a new, national transformation programme founded on a partnership of business, academia, agencies and government*
- *Launch a national AI adoption programme for SMEs, working collaboratively with partners to deliver more seamless advice and competitive grants to those at the earliest stages of AI awareness and adoption as well as those SMEs who are further along.”*

As part of the development of the AI Scotland Programme, we will set out an AI Action Plan before the end of the year and, as part of this, we will be considering the Scottish AI Register and the Scottish AI Playbook. We will also be engaging with stakeholders over the summer, as well as the the Technology Council and the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) Board.

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We have already engaged with the UK Government on some aspects of their *AI Opportunities Action Plan* (AI Growth Zones) and will continue that dialogue in order to maximise opportunities for Scotland.

I hope this is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Lochhead". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

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