



John Swinney MSP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

By Email

3 May 2022

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2022 regarding the Scottish Government's United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill.

It is helpful to understand your plans and next steps on the Bill. As I have set out previously, my officials, and those in the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland, stand ready to engage further in relation to the work the Scottish Government is taking forward on amendments to bring the Bill within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament. We look forward to having sight of these amendments in due course.

In relation to your question about why the UK Government cannot agree to take forward your wider proposals, I set out in my letter to you on 8 February that the UK Government's position is that the current devolution settlement strikes the right balance and any proposals would need to be within the parameters of the devolution settlement as it stands.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the First Minister.

**THE RT HON. ALISTER JACK MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND**