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Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Scottish Parliament
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GENESIS SCOTTISH OPEN

18 March 2026

Dear Convener

I write to you regarding a major event for Scotland and Scottish Government funding support for it.

Ordinarily this would have been announced to Parliament via a Government Initiated Question prior to my letter to you, however following a process agreed between the Parliamentary Clerks office and the Scottish Government in the lead-up to the pre-election period, GIQs are only to be utilised until 13 March and thereafter Parliament should be informed in writing via the relevant Committee. I am therefore writing to update you as soon as possible.

Golf is important to Scotland and we are known internationally as ‘the Home of Golf’. Our golf events play a key part in this deserved reputation. The Genesis Scottish Open is among the most prestigious annual men’s golf tournaments outside the four global ‘majors’. The tournament’s position in the week preceding The Open ensures a world-class field and extensive international media coverage.

The Scottish Government and VisitScotland have a long-standing relationship with the Genesis Scottish Open, recognising the event’s importance to Scotland. The event’s impact has grown steadily. The most recent independent study, in 2024, estimated the net economic impact at £19.2 million for Scotland, and in 2025 there was a record attendance of 88,000.

I am pleased to let you know that the Scottish Government has agreed to continue to provide sponsorship funding of £2.1 million per year to the Genesis Scottish Open, following the conclusion of the previous agreement at the end of the 2025 tournament. The new agreement will run from 2026 to 2028, with potential for the contract to be extended for a further two years covering 2029 and 2030.

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In addition to the significant economic benefits the event delivers at national and local level, Scottish Government investment in the Genesis Scottish Open will drive tourism and showcase Scotland as a world-class stage for major events.

The new agreement also brings an exclusive benefits package for Scotland, covering areas such as international promotion, advertising and support for Scottish Government policies, notably in relation to sustainability and health.

I hope that the Committee finds this update helpful and I will be sure to keep it informed of further developments in relation to this event.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Lochhead

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