



Criminal Justice Committee

Patricia Ferguson MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster

17 September 2026

Dear Patricia,

Thank you for your letter regarding potential interparliamentary engagement and joint working between the Scottish Affairs Committee and subject committees in the Scottish Parliament.

As you may know, I have recently taken over as Convener of the Criminal Justice Committee following Alyn Smith's departure, and your original letter addressed to Alyn has been passed to me.

I am very pleased to accept your invitation for an initial meeting to discuss areas of common working across our respective legislatures. As you noted in your letter, there are many policy matters where devolved and reserved responsibilities intersect, and establishing a constructive dialogue will be key as our committees continue their scrutiny work.

In particular, I would welcome the opportunity to explore potential areas of shared interest, such as the issue of deep fakes and digital safety. This topic has generated significant interest among our committee members and directly intersects with the responsibilities of the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport. An informal virtual discussion would be an excellent forum to discuss this and explore how we might align our scrutiny efforts where appropriate.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge your extensive previous work as an MSP and Scottish Government Minister. Having recently taken up my own role as Convener, I would be very happy to hear your reflections on your experience as a former MSP now serving in Westminster.

I will ask our committee clerks to liaise with your team to arrange a mutually convenient time for an informal virtual meeting. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Warm regards,

David Linden MSP
Convener, Criminal Justice Committee