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Turasachd agus Còmhhdhail
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Dear Convener

Sporting Events Bill LCM and Supplementary LCM

Thank you for your letter of 1 September regarding the Sporting Events Bill Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) and supplementary LCM. You will also be aware that I lodged a further supplementary LCM on 2 September setting out the Scottish Government's position on consent. In your letter, you ask about when powers in the Bill might be exercised by the Secretary of State on devolved matters in Scotland, rather than Scottish Ministers, and how the Scottish Parliament would be informed of this.

In recent years, Scotland has consolidated its position as the perfect stage for major events. Over £110 million is being invested in a pipeline of events up to 2030. We want to capitalise on the economic benefits of Scotland's successful hosting of the 2026 Commonwealth Games and those benefits that will come through our major events programme in 2027 and beyond. This includes supporting viable bids for other major events in future. The Scottish Government supports the Sporting Events Bill's main aim to improve the competitiveness of the UK in securing major international sporting events.

Scotland can and has hosted sporting events of international significance alone. In these circumstances, we would generally not expect the Secretary of State to be exercising the powers in the Bill to make provisions within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament. However, there could be circumstances where ticket touting for a particular event hosted only in Scotland could be more effectively addressed by UK-wide provision. It may make sense to achieve this by asking the Secretary of State to exercise the Bill's powers with the consent of the devolved administrations. In addition, where a major sporting event is being hosted across multiple UK nations and a single, consistent regulatory framework would be beneficial. An example could be a future FIFA Women's World Cup hosted jointly across the UK, where there is a current live bid. In such circumstances, a single set of regulations made by the Secretary of State could help to ensure consistency of

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approach across participating host nations, reduce duplication of legislative processes and provide greater certainty for organisers, partners and enforcement bodies.

In terms of informing the Scottish Parliament that the Secretary of State would be exercising the Bill's powers within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, this would be done in line with the [UK Statutory Instrument \(SI\) protocol](#). The Scottish Government regularly informs and updates the Scottish Parliament on significant developments in preparation for hosting major sporting events. We would expect to continue to do so, including where we expected the Secretary of State to be exercising the Bill's powers in devolved areas in Scotland for an event.

As Scotland continues to attract and deliver some of the world's most significant sporting events, it is important that the legislative framework supporting those events is both robust and sufficiently flexible to respond to a variety of hosting models. The Scottish Government believes the provisions in the UK Government's Bill are a pragmatic compromise that achieves that balance. I hope this information is helpful to the Committee's consideration of the LCM.

STEPHEN FLYNN MSP

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