



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

Jenny Gilruth

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government
Scottish Government

02 September 2026

Dear Deputy First Minister,

Programme for Government and intergovernmental relations

As you may be aware, the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government jointly commissioned research in Session 6 by Professor Nicola McEwen and Dr Coree Brown Swan. In their subsequent report [The Scottish Government - Scottish Parliament Written Agreement on Intergovernmental Relations: Still Fit for Purpose?](#) Prof McEwen and Dr Brown Swan recommended “supplementing the yearly Programme for Government with an assessment of the elements of that programme that interact with, or may be affected by, Common Frameworks, the United Kingdom Internal Market Act, EU alignment, or other executive, legislative, fiscal or constitutional factors that will necessitate cooperation between governments.”

In its report in March 2026 on the [Transparency of intergovernmental activity and its implications for parliamentary scrutiny](#), the predecessor Committee to the Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee expressed its support for this recommendation.

In light of the publication today of the Programme for Government, the Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee would like to ask what the Scottish Government’s initial assessment is of whether any of the Bills or draft Bills announced today would be likely to interact with, or be affected by, Common Frameworks, the UK Internal Market Act, EU alignment, or other factors that will necessitate cooperation between governments.

We are just seeking this as an initial assessment of this year’s Programme for Government at this stage, and we recognise that the position will continue to emerge as the legislative programme is progressed. However, the Committee believes that having this initial assessment in advance of your appearance at next week’s evidence session would be helpful in improving transparency around intergovernmental relations. The Committee looks forward to returning, separately, to discussions on the Scottish Government-Scottish Parliament Written Agreement.

Contact: Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email eeac.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Harvie', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Harvie MSP
Convener