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Finance and Local Government
Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Ionmhas agus Riaghaltas Ionadail
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Patrick Harvie MSP
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7 September 2026

Dear Patrick

Programme for Government and Intergovernmental Relations

Many thanks for your letter of 2 September, which seeks the Scottish Government's initial assessment of whether any Bills or draft Bills announced in the Programme for Government 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.

The Scottish Government as a matter of course considers engagement and co-operation with the UK Government as part of the policy process for all draft legislation.

For the nine year one Bills in the Programme for Government, there will be appropriate engagement as the content of the bills is developed. There are several where our initial assessment is that more significant intergovernmental engagement and co-operation can be envisaged. For example:

- **Food Prices (Scotland) Bill:** the Internal Market Act's mutual recognition principle, which can nullify devolved policies, is unlikely to apply to legislative provisions setting price caps; however the Act's non-discrimination principle may be relevant. The extent to which the Internal Market Act may impact final proposals will however depend on the final design of any scheme.
- The **Football Banning Orders (Scotland) Bill** may require engagement on matters relating to, for example, co-ordination with criminal justice and related agencies in other parts of the UK.
- The **Budget Bill**, will, as in previous years, be informed by the outcome of the UK budget this autumn.

The Policy Memoranda accompanying all Bills on publication will, of course, include further analysis of any potential Internal Market Act dependencies.

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Until we know the final shape of the concluded treaties between the UK and EU, we cannot be certain as to EU alignment dependencies with the year one legislative programme, but will of course update the Committee as appropriate. Some of the proposed Bills, particularly those relating to energy efficiency, heat networks and food policy, may engage Scotland's commitment to consider alignment with relevant EU standards. At this stage, no firm conclusions have been reached, but the Scottish Government will assess alignment opportunities and any implications of regulatory divergence as policy development progresses.

I hope this information is useful: I look forward to meeting the Committee on 8 September.



JENNY GILRUTH

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