

## **Minister for Parliamentary Business**

3 October 2023

Thank you for your letter of 29 June 2023 seeking my views on the Committee's proposed changes to Rule 9B of the Scottish Parliament's Standing Orders.

I agree there is merit in addressing the current position of Rule 9B only providing for motions which deal with recommendations for full or partial consent to provisions in relevant UK Bills. The Scottish Government's view is that it would be helpful for debates on motions which recommend the withholding of consent to be brought within Rule 9B rather than, as at present, dealt with by motions under Chapter 8.

I therefore have no difficulty in general terms in supporting the Committee's proposal. In my view this would not preclude the Parliament from debating the subject matter of a relevant UK Bill before a committee had reported on its scrutiny of the associated LCM but it would be clear that such a debate was not a formal legislative consent debate under Rule 9B.

Our respective officials have discussed some points of detail around the drafting of the changes to Rule 9B and I would be grateful for your agreement for further discussions to take place. That is with a view to ensuring that the revised Rule 9B is able to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible when dealing with situations in which UK Bills may give rise to the consideration of different consent positions at different points in a Bill's passage. I will follow-up in writing once those further discussions have taken place and would seek to do so by early November.

## **Minister for Parliamentary Business**

25 January 2024

Thank you for your letter of 29 June 2023 seeking my views on the Committee's proposed changes to Rule 9B of the Scottish Parliament's Standing Orders.

In my previous response of 3 October 2023, I agreed that there was merit in addressing the current position of Rule 9B, namely that the Rule only provides for motions which recommend full or partial consent to provisions in relevant UK Bills.

The Scottish Government's view is that it would be helpful for debates on motions which recommend the withholding of consent to be brought within Rule 9B rather than, as at present, dealt with by motions under Chapter 8.

In the meantime, our respective officials have discussed the detail around the drafting of the changes to Rule 9B. A final draft of Rule 9B has been prepared and I am content with the proposed draft.