Dear Lord Henley

ESIFs inquiry

You may be aware of my Committee’s current inquiry into structural funds, the Clerks having been in touch with your private office about the earlier possibility of you appearing before us.

We have still to take evidence from the Scottish Government – which will be happening in September – and are keen to receive a written submission from you, as the relevant UK Minster.

For a sense of our focus, please see the Committee’s call for views, but it would be particularly useful to have your input on the questions concerning future programmes:

- How any future replacement of ESIFs could be used to improve employment, infrastructure and productivity in Scotland’s regions?

- Which level of government is best placed to decide how future funding is allocated and what accountability processes should be in place?

- What are the potential opportunities and risks presented by any replacement fund or programme for ESIFs?

You may also find it useful to consider the evidence already heard, during committee meetings on 8 May and 15 May, plus the written submissions we have received.
I would be most grateful if you are able to respond before the end of June.

Kind regards

Gordon Lindhurst MSP
Convener