



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee

The Rt. Hon. Lord Henley  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of  
State, Department for Business,  
Energy and Industrial Strategy

Sent by email only

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30 May 2018

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 Minister.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gordon Lindhurst". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G" and a distinctive flourish at the end of the name.

Gordon Lindhurst MSP  
Convener