Thank you for your letter of 30 May, regarding the inquiry of the Scottish Parliament’s Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee into Structural and Investment Funds and future programmes following EU exit.

You will be aware that the Government’s manifesto committed to create the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which will seek to reduce inequalities between communities across all four nations of the United Kingdom.

We intend to consult later in the year on the design of the Fund, as set out in the Industrial Strategy. In advance of this, the Government will engage devolved administrations to consider how the Fund can best operate across the UK.

I encourage the Scottish Parliament to use the forthcoming consultation to contribute evidence gathered through the inquiry to inform the design of the Fund.

I welcome seeing further work of the committee as the inquiry continues.

Sir

Rt Hon Lord Henley