



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Gordon Lindhurst MSP

By email:
economyjobsandfairwork@parliament.scot

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Dear Gordon,

Thank you for your letter of 03 October setting out the findings of your Inquiry into the future of European Structural and Investment Funds, and for the work you and your colleagues have taken to investigate the value of the funds all across Scotland.

As you have heard, the funds have supported both infrastructure and skills over the past forty years and the loss when the UK leaves the European Union poses a major challenge to Scotland's economy. I am pleased to see the consensus within your committee to maintaining the best elements of the funds ensuring that Scotland is not disadvantaged by leaving the EU.

I fully support the call for the UK Government to engage meaningfully with Scotland on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to minimise the risks to the many areas of Scotland that make such a contribution to the economy through access to this funding.

IVAN McKEE

