



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee

Hugh Lightbody,
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Dear Mr Lightbody,

Business Support Inquiry

I understand that you have corresponded with the Committee Clerks regarding my letter dated 21 November 2018. My understanding is that further to your discussions with the Economy and Environment Board and COSLA spokesperson, it has been agreed that the requested regional performance data for the last ten years could be shared with the Committee members on a confidential basis. You have also indicated that COSLA is unable to provide the requested regional Quality Assurance data.

On this occasion, the Committee has decided that it cannot accept the regional performance data on a confidential basis as this may put members in a compromised position of having sight of the data but being unable to refer to it on the public record.

It would be helpful for the Committee to better understand why this information must remain confidential. During a recent fact-finding trip to Dublin, members were impressed by the transparency in the regional breakdown of reporting by the Irish Local Enterprise Offices.

The Committee is also disappointed that COSLA feels unable to share the quality assurance data. This dashboard data was cited by several local authorities in their

formal submissions as being important to the monitoring of Business Gateway services at a local level.

I would be grateful if you could respond to my letter citing the reasons why the regional performance and target data must remain confidential and why the requested quality assurance data cannot be shared.

It would be helpful for the Committee to receive this information in advance of next week's Committee meeting where you will be giving evidence. I would therefore be grateful if you could respond by Thursday 13 December.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Lindhurst'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'G' and 'L'.

Gordon Lindhurst MSP
Convener