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Graeme Dey MSP
Convenor
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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Our ref:
30 June 2016

Dear Graeme,

I am writing to let you know the immediate next steps to prepare for Scotland taking early control of the management and revenue of Crown Estate assets in Scotland.

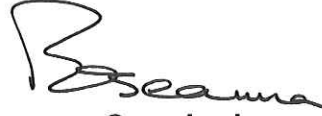
The Scotland Act 2016 provides that management of the assets be transferred to a single body through secondary legislation at Westminster i.e. the Scottish Ministers or a person nominated by them. I propose to use the Order in Council powers in section 36(9) of the Scotland Act 2016 to establish a body to manage the Crown Estate assets on an interim basis. These interim arrangements will enable Scotland to take control of the assets at the earliest opportunity and for the UK Government to complete the legislative devolution to the Scottish Parliament.

In advance of laying the Order in Council, I am today launching a consultation on the interim management arrangements. Additionally, I am laying a draft Order in Parliament that will allow the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life to regulate appointments to the Board of the new interim body prior to it being formally established. This will mean that appointments made to that body are fully transparent and subject to high level scrutiny that the Commissioner can provide.

In parallel my officials are preparing a formal consultation on the long-term arrangements, which will follow in due course. In the meantime, I plan to continue engagement with the Stakeholder Advisory Group established by Scottish Ministers.

I hope you find this update helpful.

Yours



Roseanna Cunningham