Dear Convener,

EU Engagement and Scrutiny of the Committees of the Scottish Parliament

I am writing to you in relation to the annual reporting process on EU engagement and scrutiny of the committees of the Scottish Parliament.

In December 2010, the Scottish Parliament debated and agreed to introduce a Parliament-wide strategy for EU engagement and scrutiny. The strategy sets out the role for the committees of the Parliament ‘to scrutinise the Scottish Government and its EU engagement’. To fulfil this scrutiny function, the Parliament agreed to develop an early engagement approach; to mainstream the scrutiny of draft EU legislation in subject committees; and to mainstream the monitoring of the transposition and implementation of legislation in subject committees. In Session 4, the committees reported annually to the European and External Relations Committee on EU engagement and scrutiny in the previous year, as well as planned EU engagement and scrutiny in the coming year.

Given the vote in the EU referendum to leave the EU, the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee would like to invite you to report both on any EU engagement or scrutiny that you have conducted or have planned in relation to the European Commission’s work programme 2017, and on any scrutiny relating to the implications of leaving the EU for Scotland.
Under the EU strategy, the committees report back to the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee, which then compiles the responses in a report for publication. I would like to invite you to report back to the Committee by 10 February 2017.

Please do not hesitate to contact the clerks to the Committee if you have any questions about the EU strategy.

Yours sincerely,

Joan McAlpine
Convener