



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Ivan Mckee MSP
Minister for Trade, Investment
and Innovation

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

BY EMAIL

Direct Tel: 0131-348-5234
(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)
Email: europe@parliament.scot

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EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS – FIRST PHASE OF DELIVERY

Dear Ivan

At its meeting on 6 September 2018, the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee (the Committee) considered a series of bi-annual updates from the Scottish Government. The update included a letter from yourself regarding the first phase of delivery of European Structural Fund (ESF) programmes up to 2019.

Among other things, the letter explains that in January the Scottish Government was notified that the European Commission (EC) had placed both Scottish programmes in “interruption” due to the results of audits carried out in 2017. Although the Committee understands auditors acting on behalf of the EC have now rectified the issue, and you expect funds to be paid, the Committee would be interested to understand what audit issues resulted in this period of ‘interruption’, the impact of this period of interruption on funding take-up and the level of funds that continue to be affected by this issue (if applicable).

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours Sincerely

Joan McAlpine MSP, Convener, Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee