23 March 2020

Dear Ms McAlpine

I am writing to you in light of UEFA’s decision of 17 March 2020 to postpone the EURO 2020 tournament until summer 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular to set out the implications for implementation of the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Act 2020 ("the 2020 Act").

As set out by Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture when the postponement was announced, the Scottish Government fully supports UEFA’s decision. Health is paramount and the decision is consistent with our advice that event organisers should cancel or postpone events of 500 people or more.

The postponement will, of course, have ramifications for the implementation of the 2020 Act. I gave evidence to the Committee on the proposed draft UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Act 2020 Remedial Order 2020 and the UEFA European Championship (Trading and Advertising) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 on 12 March and was expecting to give evidence on the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Act 2020 (Ticket Touting Offence) (Exceptions for Use of Internet etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 in coming weeks.

Given the postponement of the event, I wanted to let you know at the earliest opportunity that I will not be progressing these regulations or the Order any further, and all will be withdrawn from Parliament. In doing so I want to provide reassurance to businesses in the three event zones that they will not be subject to advertising and trading restrictions in summer 2020 and will work with partners to inform businesses about this.

Looking ahead, as you would expect, the Local Organising Committee, which includes representation from the Scottish Government, is considering the impact of postponing the Championship and will discuss this with UEFA. Once the position is clearer the Scottish
Government will engage with the Scottish Parliament on future legislation to help to ensure successful delivery of the Championship, as appropriate.

Given these unprecedented times, I am sure the Committee will understand the need for these actions. Once again, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the Committee for its time and diligence in its considerations of the UEFA EURO 2020 legislation to date.

I am copying this letter to the Presiding Officer and to the Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.

Best regards

Ben Macpherson