



Cabinet Office

Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Minister for the Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Web www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

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Bruce Crawford MSP
Joan McAlpine MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

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Dear Bruce, Joan,

Thank you for your letter of 22nd November inviting a UK Government Minister to give evidence before the Finance and Constitution Committee and the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee.

The Withdrawal Agreement and Future Framework provides us with a deal that works for the entirety of the UK. It respects the result of the referendum, gives the UK an independent trade policy and ends freedom of movement, while protecting the integrity of the UK single market. It delivers for Scottish fishermen, making the UK an independent coastal state and it guarantees that Geographical Indications like Scotch whisky will be protected until a future economic relationship is put in place.

I would be happy to attend a joint meeting of your Committees to speak more about the deal and the benefits it brings to Scotland. I understand our officials are discussing a mutually beneficial time. As you will appreciate, the UK Parliamentary timetable is currently subject to change and fast-moving and therefore demands on my own time may also change at short notice.

Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP