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Bruce Crawford MSP  
Convener  
Finance and Constitution Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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6 September 2019

Dear Bruce

When I appeared before the Committee meeting on 26 June, I informed members of my intention to establish a steering group with a remit to oversee the consultation that will address the replacement for European Structural Funds. I am pleased to be in a position to provide members with an update on membership of the steering group and details of the first meeting.

### **Steering Group**

During my opening statement, I referred to the range of stakeholders that would form the membership of the steering group, including lead partners and delivery organisations. The confirmed members have a strong background and experience in the delivery of social and economic policies and targets, in addition to having significant experience in the management and administration of high profile funding programmes. The membership reflects these requirements, ensuring a broad range of skills and experience from across Scotland. The confirmed membership is as follows:

- Professor David Bell – University of Stirling - Chair
- Highlands & Islands Enterprise – Rob Clarke
- SCVO – Anna Fowlie
- South of Scotland Enterprise Agency – Professor Russel Griggs
- Scottish Enterprise – Douglas Colquhoun
- COSLA – Cllr Steven Heddle
- University of Strathclyde – Professor John Bachtler
- Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development Group (SLAED) – Names tbc
- Scottish Government – Richard Rollison (Interim) Director for Economic Development

A provisional date of 16 September has been identified for the first meeting of the steering group.

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## Consultation

I have met with my officials and Professor Bell to discuss a provisional timetable for the launch of the consultation paper and have identified October as a possible launch date. The consultation period would close in January 2020 with submission of a final report to ministers by Spring 2020. I will of course provide you and members of the Committee with regular updates on the progress and activity of the steering group.

Yours sincerely



**Ivan McKee**

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