Dear James,

I attended a meeting of the Local Government and Communities Committee on 27th February 2019 for the purposes of designating VisitScotland as a relevant authority under schedule 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. During the meeting I agreed to write to you about two matters that were raised by the committee. These included the rationale for adding VisitScotland to the schedule and also what the Scottish Government’s procedures are for considering requests to add public bodies to schedule 3, including requests from community groups.

VisitScotland is added to schedule 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 at their request. VisitScotland advised the Scottish Government that they no longer require to maintain their estate at its current level as the majority of people are accessing tourist information online and footfall has declined as a result. As some of VisitScotland’s assets are owned by Scottish ministers and some are owned by VisitScotland in its own right, it was felt by both parties that it would be sensible to have all the assets under schedule 3 of the Act.

In relation to other Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and relevant public bodies, these are in the main already covered by the Scottish Ministers entry in schedule 3. Of these public bodies, most only have one office, or have no offices and share their office space in a main Scottish Government building.

The few NDPBs who do have larger amounts of estate will be considered on a case by case basis as most of these will be responsible solely for properties under the care of Scottish Ministers and will already be covered under this entry. For new NDPBs and any other requests including any which may come from community groups, these will be considered by the Scottish Government on a case by case basis.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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For further information, I include below a list of those public bodies (including number of estates currently held) not individually named on schedule 3 of the Community Empowerment Act that are eligible for community asset transfer requests, and are covered under the Scottish Ministers heading.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Kind regards

KEVIN STEWART
List of those public bodies not individually named on schedule 3 of the Community Empowerment Act (number of offices/areas of estate in brackets)

**Executive Agencies**

- Accountant in Bankruptcy (1)
- Disclosure Scotland (no offices)
- Education Scotland (3)
- Scottish Prison Service (61)
- Scottish Public Pensions Agency (1)
- Social Security Scotland (no offices)
- Student Awards Agency for Scotland (1)
- Transport Scotland (no offices)

**Non Ministerial Offices (NMOs)**

- Food Standards Scotland (1)
- National Records of Scotland (6)
- Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (1)
- Registers of Scotland (11)
- Revenue Scotland (no offices)
- Scottish Fiscal Commission (1)
- Scottish Housing Regulator (1)

**Public Corporations**

- Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (1 main office and various ports and harbours on the Clyde coast)
- Glasgow Prestwick Airport (1)
- The Crown Estate Scotland (37,000 hectares of rural land; 4 estates; 1 office; various ports and harbours)

**Executive NDPBs**

- Accounts Commission for Scotland (transferred to Audit Scotland – 6)
- Architecture and Design Scotland (2)
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig (1)
- Care Inspectorate (14)
- Children’s Hearings Scotland (1)
- Community Justice Scotland (1)
- Creative Scotland (5)
- David MacBrayne Ltd (1)
- Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (1)
- Independent Living Fund Scotland (1)
- National Galleries of Scotland (11)
- National Library of Scotland (8)
- National Museums of Scotland (4)
- Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (1)
- Quality Meat Scotland (1)

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Risk Management Authority (1)
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (1)
Scottish Agricultural Wages Board (no offices)
Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (28)
Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission (2)
Scottish Funding Council (2)
Scottish Futures Trust (1)
Scottish Land Commission (1)
Scottish Legal Aid Board (8)
Scottish Legal Complaints Commission (1)
Scottish Qualifications Authority (3)
Scottish Social Services Council (1)
Skills Development Scotland (34)
Sportscotland (15)
Water Industry Commission for Scotland (1)

Advisory NDPBs

Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland (1)
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (1)
Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (no offices)
Scottish Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards (1)
Scottish Commission on Social Security (no offices)
Scottish Law Commission (1)
Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (no offices)

Parliamentary Commissioners and Ombudsmen

Children & Young Peoples Commissioner Scotland (1)
Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland (1)
Scottish Human Rights Commission (1)
Scottish Information Commissioner (1)
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (1)
Standards Commission for Scotland (no offices)

Other Significant Bodies

Audit Scotland (6)
Convener of School Closure Review Panels (no offices)
Court of Lord Lyon (no offices)
Drinking Water Quality Regulator (no offices)
HM Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (no offices)
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons in Scotland (no offices)
HM Chief Inspector of Prosecution in Scotland (1)
HM Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland (no offices)
Justices of the Peace Advisory Committee (no offices)
Office of the Queens Printer for Scotland (no offices)
Scottish Road Works Commissioner (no offices)

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