Dear Joe

As you may be aware, the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee has been invited to consider various recommendations made by the Commission on Parliamentary Reform.

Last Thursday, the Committee discussed recommendations 54 and 55 in the Commission’s report which relate to Member’s Bills. These recommendations are as follows:

**R54**: Where the Scottish Government proposes to legislate on the same proposal for a Member’s Bill then a Member’s Bill should not be automatically stopped from progressing. In those circumstances, the parliamentary procedure should encourage collaborative working.

**R55**: Once this change in approach is implemented, the Parliament should review, and if necessary increase, NGBU resources available to support the members’ bills process.

Ahead of reaching a view on these recommendations the Committee thought it would be helpful to obtain the position of the Scottish Government.

I would therefore be grateful if you could indicate the position of the Scottish Government on paragraphs 248 to 252 of the Commission’s report and in particular recommendation 54.

The Committee is hoping to consider a further paper on the Commission’s recommendations shortly, and so it would be very useful to receive a response to this letter within the next three weeks.

Yours sincerely
Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee