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By email only

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CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION WITH LAW OFFICERS – 28 JUNE 2023

I am writing following my appearance before the Constitution Committee, alongside the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, on 28 June 2023. I would like to thank the Committee again for the opportunity to discuss the role of the Law Officers and for the Committee's work in producing the report, *The Roles of the Lord Chancellor and the Law Officers*, earlier this year.

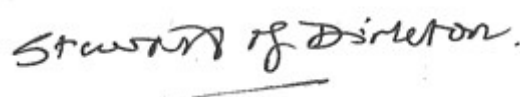
During the course of the evidence session Lord Foulkes of Cumnock raised the issue of spending by devolved administrations on matters which he viewed as outside of their competence. Specifically, he raised the appointment by the Scottish Government of a Minister for Independence and spending on civil servants to support that Minister. I undertook to consider the matter and I am writing to provide an update.

I share the concerns which the Secretary of State for Scotland has raised on this issue. However, it is for the Scottish Government to decide how it spends money received from the block grant and it is for the civil service to ensure compliance with the civil service code.

The UK Government expects the Scottish Government to use its block grant in devolved areas to address the priorities of the Scottish people and improve public services in Scotland. The UK Government continues to engage closely with the devolved administrations and will closely monitor these matters in future.

I am copying this letter to Lord Foulkes, the Attorney General, Solicitor General and Secretary of State for Scotland.

Yours sincerely,


Stewart of Dirleton

**LORD STEWART OF DIRLETON KC
ADVOCATE GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND**