



Scottish Affairs Committee

William Wragg MP
Public Administration and Constitutional
Affairs Committee
House of Commons

7 July 2023

Dear William,

At its meeting on 26 June, the Scottish Affairs Committee agreed to undertake a new inquiry on *Intergovernmental relations: 25 years since the Scotland Act 1998*, to be launched before the summer recess (w/c 17 July). I am writing to inform you of our inquiry as I know that your Committee maintains a scrutiny interest in the UK's intergovernmental relations framework. Our inquiry will seek to mark the twenty fifth anniversary of the Scotland Act 1998 by examining how intergovernmental relations have evolved and developed in the period since the establishment of the Scottish Executive. We will also look at the operation of current IGR arrangements. I include the terms of reference below for your interest:

- How did the 1998 Scotland Act and subsequent intergovernmental bodies envisage the operational relationship between the UK Government and Scottish Executive?
- How effectively have processes for managing intergovernmental relations evolved to respond to various political developments since 1999, for example:
 - The 2014 independence referendum;
 - Changes in governing party in both Westminster and Edinburgh;
 - The devolution of further powers to the Scottish Government; and
 - The UK's exit from the EU?
- How effectively has the new intergovernmental relations framework operated since January 2022?
- To what extent has the new intergovernmental relations framework been fully implemented?
- To what extent has the new intergovernmental framework succeeded in developing an effective dispute resolution mechanism to resolve or mitigate conflict between the UK and Scottish governments?
- How far does the new intergovernmental relations framework provide sufficient transparency and opportunity for parliamentary scrutiny, and how does this compare to previous arrangements?

I would be happy to discuss the Committee's inquiry further with you if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Pete Wishart MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee