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Pete Wishart MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1 0AA

4th January 2024

Dear Pete,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December inviting me to give evidence to the Committee.

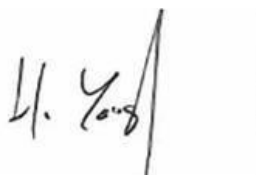
Unfortunately, due to my extensive commitments as First Minister, I am unable to accept the invitation to appear before the Committee.

As the Committee is aware, I am accountable to the Scottish Parliament for the decisions and actions of the Scottish Government. Sessions such as weekly First Minister's Questions and my evidence sessions with the Scottish Parliament Conveners Group are an important feature of my commitment to ensuring that the Parliament can fully discharge its essential scrutiny function.

I understand that the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, Angus Robertson, has accepted an invitation to discuss the Scottish Government's written evidence to your inquiry, *Intergovernmental relations: 25 years since the Scotland Act 1998*, with the Committee in early March.

I am sure the Committee will welcome the opportunity to discuss these important matters with Angus.

With all good wishes,



HUMZA YOUSAF



Scottish Affairs Committee

Rt Hon. Humza Yousaf MSP
First Minister of Scotland
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

18 December 2023

Dear First Minister,

Further to our letter dated 3 July 2023, the Scottish Affairs Committee would like to re-iterate its open invitation to you to give evidence to the Committee at a date which might be convenient to you. This would be an opportunity to discuss policy areas related to recent inquiries and your priorities as First Minister. It would also be a chance for you to comment on current intergovernmental relations between the UK and Scottish governments, which is the focus of the Committee's current inquiry on *Intergovernmental relations: 25 years since the Scotland Act 1998*.

We hope you will re-consider our invitation, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Pete Wishart MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee