



Pete Wishart MP  
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
SW1A 1AA

21 May 2024

Dear Pete,

Thank you for your letter to the Cabinet Secretary, Simon Case. I am responding as the UK Government Minister responsible for representing Scotland and the Scottish devolution settlement.

The Cabinet Secretary regularly attends the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee. On an exceptional basis he attended the Lords Constitution Committee in 2023. I believe that the last time the Cabinet Secretary attended a Departmental Committee was in 1986 regarding the Westland affair.

I understand you have invited the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government to provide evidence and I think this would be welcome.

Collaboration between officials in the UK Government and Scottish Government takes place every week working together, formally and informally, to tackle shared challenges and engage on a range of issues facing the United Kingdom. It is my view that Laurence Rockey, Director of the Scotland Office, and a senior civil servant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities would be best placed to appear before your Committee.

Together, they are ideally placed to ensure that the inquiry receives the most comprehensive evidence possible. My office would be happy to work with your clerks to organise a date for their appearance, and the UK Government looks forward to the progress of your inquiry.

*Yours sincerely,  
Alister*

**THE RT HON. ALISTER JACK MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND**

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## Scottish Affairs Committee

**Simon Case CVO**  
**Head of the Civil Service**

**By email**

7 May 2024

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I am writing to you regarding the Scottish Affairs Committee's inquiry into *Intergovernmental relations: the Civil Service*.

As you know, the Committee Clerks have been in touch with your office to invite you to give evidence to the aforementioned inquiry. I understand from your response that you initially considered it unlikely you will have any availability to attend the Committee this side of summer recess, and you kindly offered two senior officials to attend in your place.

The Committee considered this response at its last meeting, and agreed that your attendance should be insisted upon.

As you will know, our inquiry examines some highly intricate, consequential and politically topical matters, for which you are personally responsible as Head of the Civil Service. I also note that you have been willing to discuss precisely the matters we wish to explore with you during recent appearances in the House of Lords. For that reason, the Committee considers that you are a vital witness to the inquiry, and that it would not be acceptable to hear from other senior officials in your stead.

With nearly three months left before summer recess, it should be possible to find a mutually acceptable date for your appearance. The Committee Clerks are at your disposal to facilitate this.

I would be grateful for a response by Tuesday 14 May.

Yours sincerely

**Pete Wishart MP**  
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee