



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

Angus Robertson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

11 November 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Sporting events of National interest

Thank you for your letter dated 18th August 2025 regarding sporting events of National interest. The Committee also received a response from the SFA¹ and the UK Government and we heard from the Chief Executive of the SFA, Ian Maxwell, at our meeting on 30th October 2025². The Committee agreed to write to you seeking a response to the written and oral evidence from the SFA.

In doing so the Committee notes that the Scottish Government's view "is that women and men's international football matches should be part of the listed events regime of free-to-air sporting events". We also note that you recognise the "need to be cognisant of the income from the sale of television rights which the Scottish FA receives and which is used to support the growth and development of the game in Scotland, and the right balance needs to be struck between the ability of rights holders to generate income to support their sport and the accessibility of sporting events for television viewing".

However, the SFA state in their letter to us that: "Adding all men's A qualifying matches to the Listed Events list would significantly reduce commercial competition and value, reducing broadcast revenue from UEFA for the sale of rights to FTA broadcasters only. If not subsidised by other means, it would have the inevitable consequence of reduction in participation and development investment across Scotland. This cannot be the Scottish Government's intention".

The SFA also stated that they "are committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure that football remains accessible while also safeguarding the financial sustainability of the game in Scotland. We would welcome feedback from the Committee on how these objectives can be balanced effectively".

¹ [sporting-events-of-national-interest--sfa.pdf](#)

² [Official Report](#)

Contact: Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.

Email CEEAC.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

The Committee invites you to respond to the concerns raised by the SFA in its written and oral evidence, including how women and men's international football matches can be added to the listed events regime of free-to-air sporting events without detriment to the growth and development of the game in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Clare Adamson". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Clare" and last name "Adamson" clearly legible.

Clare Adamson MSP
Convener

Cc Clare Haughey MSP, Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee