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14 January 2026

Dear Stuart

**The Scotland Act 1998 (Specification of Functions and Transfer of Property etc.) Order 2019**

I am writing to update you on the above named Order, following our meeting on 6 January where you asked what progress has been made to date.

I can confirm that in-principle ministerial agreement to the Order has been reached. The Scottish Government wrote to the UK Government on 27 October, and received a reply from Baroness Hayman confirming in-principle agreement on 11 December.

Officials from the Scottish Government, Scotland Office, OAG and DEFRA are due to meet for their first working group today (14 January), and will discuss drafting, timeframes and roles and responsibilities.

The timetable should be agreed shortly after this meeting, and it is hoped that the Order will be able to go to a Privy Council early after the summer recess.

Yours sincerely



**GRAEME DEY**

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