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Dear Clare and Colin,

I am writing to update you on the Scottish Government's participation in the meeting of the Council of the Nations and Regions and other intergovernmental engagements, which took place in London on 23 May.

I held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister, during which we discussed the recent US trade deal and EU reset agreement and the forthcoming UK spending review and industrial strategy. I acknowledged that there are aspects of both agreements to be welcomed and the positive momentum is encouraging. I also expressed my disappointment at the lack of engagement with devolved governments given the implications for all parts of the UK especially the implications for the fishing industry in Scotland.

I raised my concerns about the UK Government's Immigration White Paper and challenged the Prime Minister on his proposed welfare reforms, calling for urgent collaborative action to tackle child poverty. I also pressed for urgent funding for the Acorn cluster and raised my concerns over the ongoing review of the UK Internal Market Act.

During the meeting between the heads of the devolved governments and the Prime Minister, we discussed the current situation in Ukraine and I pressed the Prime Minister on what more could be done to end the conflict in Gaza and ensure humanitarian assistance. There was also a substantial discussion on growth, during which I called on the Prime Minister to use the forthcoming spending review to ease his fiscal rules and invest across the UK.

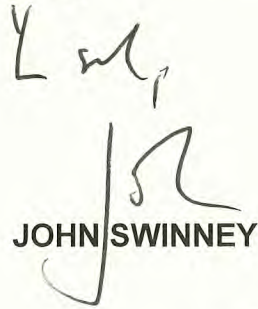
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Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire  
Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

I then attended the second Council of the Nations and Regions meeting. As set out in my letter of 22 May, the discussion focussed on trade and tariffs and how artificial intelligence can support our public services and stimulate economic growth.

I also participated in a briefing on National Security issues.

I have asked my officials to notify the committee when the communiqués of the Heads of Devolved Governments and Council of the Nations and Regions meetings are published on the UK Government website in due course.

  
JOHN SWINNEY