

Rt Hon John Swinney MSP  
An Fhìor Urr John Swinney BPA  
First Minister of Scotland  
Am Prìomh Mhinistear



St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG

Clare Adamson MSP  
Convener of Constitution, Europe and External Affairs and Culture Committee  
[CEEAC.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:CEEAC.committee@parliament.scot)

Colin Smyth MSP  
Convener of Economy and Fair Work Committee  
[economyandfairwork.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:economyandfairwork.committee@parliament.scot)

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*Dear Clare and Colin,*

I am writing to inform you that the next meeting of the Council of the Nations and Regions has been scheduled to take place on Friday 23 May. The meeting of the Council, arranged by the United Kingdom Government, will focus on two agenda items: an update on trade and tariffs; and the role of artificial intelligence in supporting economic growth.

On the same day, I will also meet the Prime Minister on a bilateral basis, and there will be a joint meeting between the Prime Minister and the Heads of the Devolved Governments.

Throughout the day, I intend to emphasise that I welcome the trade deal which has been reached with the United States while also highlighting that there are important details yet to be agreed, and that time will be needed to consider the full implications for Scottish business. I intend to press for a more detailed account of the impact which the UK Government anticipates for key industries for Scotland, such as pharmaceuticals and the agrifood sector.

I will welcome the steps to rebuild the UK's relationship with the EU, which includes progress in some areas Scottish Ministers have been calling for, such as removing obstacles to food and agricultural exports and rejoining the Erasmus exchange scheme. I also intend to express my disappointment at the lack of devolved government involvement in the negotiations and to call on the UK Government to involve devolved governments properly in the next stages of negotiations so that the interests of all parts of the UK can be protected.

On the topic of artificial intelligence, I intend to set out the huge opportunities for innovation in Scotland and emphasise that we hope to engage closely on the UK Government's proposed AI Bill, to ensure this technology is used ethically and inclusively to support business and the public sector in Scotland.

During proceedings, I will also highlight to the Prime Minister the need for tailored migration solutions for Scotland, to support our economy, communities, and public services.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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 will also receive a briefing on national security issues.

I will write to you following these meetings to update you on the Scottish Government's contribution.

Yours,



JOHN SWINNEY

