



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Finance and Public Administration Committee**

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing  
and Communities  
UK Government

By email

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2 June 2023

Dear Michael

Following your letter of 21 November 2022, in which you confirmed that you would be “open to appearing at a convenient point in 2023” on post-EU issues, the Scottish Parliament’s Finance and Public Administration Committee’s officials have been regularly liaising with your officials to identify a suitable time to schedule this.

Whilst to date that has not been possible, the Committee remains keen to discuss with you, at a future Finance and Public Administration Committee meeting, the progress with and operation in Scotland of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the rounds of Levelling Up Funding, along with other ‘levelling up’ funds disbursed in Scotland.

As our letter of 5 October highlights, in the interests of supporting effective scrutiny and having a clear overall picture of public spending in Scotland, the Committee also agreed to explore a more formal reporting role for the Scottish Parliament in relation to these Funds, including through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. We [wrote to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill Committee](#) on this point on 6 October 2022. In addition, the Scottish Parliament’s Public Audit Committee has [corresponded](#) with the National Audit Office and Audit Scotland and the former Deputy First Minister at the Scottish Government on how these funds, when spent in Scotland, will be audited.

We very much welcomed your statement when you last appeared in February 2022 that “the more that UK Government ministers can appear in the Scottish Parliament to answer your questions, the more that demonstrates how devolution can and should work”. To this end, we would be grateful if your staff could indicate potential

dates when you would be available to attend the Scottish Parliament and meet with the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

Yours sincerely

**John Mason MSP**  
**Interim Convener**  
**Finance and Public Administration Committee**