



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**

Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing &  
Communities  
Minister for Intergovernmental Relations  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Kenneth Gibson MSP  
Convener, Finance and Public Administration  
Committee

Dear Ken,

4th December 2023

Thank you very much for your letter of 18 October regarding both the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, now Act, and my attendance at the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

Levelling Up is of the utmost importance in ensuring that communities in all parts of the UK are able to grow and thrive. We know this is an objective we share with the Scottish Government.

We are grateful for all the constructive engagement with the Scottish Government during the passage of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act through Parliament. As part of this engagement we outlined to the Scottish Government ahead of the amendments laid before the House of Lords, how we intended to consult the devolved administrations and lay a document showing how the Government has had regard to the devolved administrations.

Now that the Act has received Royal Assent, I am required to lay the Statement of Missions by 25 January 2024. Alongside this or as soon as possible after the Statement I will also lay the accompanying document setting out how I have had regard to the role of devolved authorities and legislatures in connection with the Statement. The Levelling Up Minister Jacob Young MP has written to the Deputy First Minister to consult the Scottish Government on the first Statement of Missions, with a request for responses of 15 December.

Regarding my attendance at the Committee, due to significant diary pressures between now and Christmas, I am regrettably unable to appear before the Committee on 7 December. I apologise for the inconvenience this has caused you, the Committee and Committee staff. I have asked my officials to liaise with the Clerk to find a suitable date in January and February.

Thank you again for writing.

**RT HON MICHAEL GOVE MP**

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