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Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Scottish Parliament
Holyrood
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WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

16 March 2026

Dear Convener

I write to you regarding a major event for Scotland and Scottish Government funding support for it.

Ordinarily this would have been announced to Parliament via a Government Initiated Question prior to my letter to you, however following a process agreed between the Parliamentary Clerks office and the Scottish Government in the lead-up to the pre-election period, GIQs are only to be utilised until 13 March and thereafter Parliament should be informed in writing via the relevant Committee. I am therefore writing to update you as soon as possible.

I am delighted to let you know that a bid to bring a round of the World Rally Championship to Scotland has been successful. The event will be held in the North East of Scotland from 2027 to 2029.

The process for securing Scotland's place on the World Rally Championship calendar was competitive, however Scotland's strong reputation as a host of major events, the strategic assets in the North East and the clear desire of partners in the Scottish bid to bring the event here and work together to make it a success, led to a winning bid. I commend host Local Authority partners in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray, along with VisitScotland, for their commitment to bringing the World Rally Championship to Scotland.

The event is a multi-partner funded project. Alongside host Local Authority contributions, the Scottish Government will contribute up to £6.695 million to support event delivery.

The World Rally Championship round in Scotland is expected to be run over four consecutive days each year, in large part through Forestry and Land Scotland forests.

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I look forward to the event becoming a fixture on the sporting schedule and delivering a range of strong socio-economic benefits, particularly for the North East of Scotland.

I hope that the Committee will join me in welcoming this news for Scotland and I will be sure to keep it updated as planning for the event develops.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD LOCHHEAD MSP

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