

An Fhòr Urr John Swinney BPA
Rt Hon John Swinney MSP
Am Prìomh Mhainistear
First Minister of Scotland



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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

Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
By email: HSCS.committee@Parliament.Scotland

05 January 2026

Dear Clare,

I am writing to inform you of my intention to propose that Monday 15 June 2026 is designated a national bank holiday to mark Scotland's participation in the men's World Cup for the first time since 1998. This will allow individuals, businesses and other organisations in Scotland to celebrate after the men's team play their opening game against Haiti in Boston.

Scotland qualifying for the men's World Cup was a remarkable achievement and a landmark moment. I want to make the most of this huge opportunity for Scotland, and ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to celebrate the team's success.

As you may be aware, bank holidays are set under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971. The relevant powers were devolved by the Scotland Act 1998. A day can be appointed as a bank holiday in Scotland by Royal Proclamation. The First Minister advises the Privy Council on proclamations for Scotland that are then designated by Royal Proclamation by His Majesty the King.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Swinney'.

JOHN SWINNEY