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Bruce Crawford MSP  
Convenor  
Devolution (Further Powers) Committee  
c/o Clerk to the Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

18 December 2014

Dear Bruce,

**Section 30 Order for votes for 16-17 year olds in Scotland**

Thank you for your letter of 15th December.

As you are aware, the Prime Minister discussed this important issue with the First Minister at their bilateral meeting following the plenary meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee. This government has committed to do everything we can to ensure that the necessary legislation will be in place to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in the next Holyrood elections.

UK Government officials are working closely with their counterparts in the Scottish Government to come to terms on the drafting of an Order to make this possible. I appreciate the interest your Committee will have in this Order and we will provide you with a further update as work on this progresses.

*Yours ever,*

*Alistair*

**Rt Hon ALISTAIR CARMICHAEL MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND**