



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Devolution (Further Powers) Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
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The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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18 December 2015

Dear Secretary of State,

### **Timetable for the transfer of powers and subsequent legislation on votes for 16-17 year olds**

I wrote to you earlier this week to enquire about the proposed timetable that the UK Government expects to follow for the transfer of powers over the voting franchise for the next Scottish Parliament elections to enable 16 and 17 year old voters to participate in May 2016.

Today, the Committee took evidence from Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Counting Officer at the Scottish Independence Referendum, and other members of the Electoral Management Board for Scotland. During the meeting, representatives of the Electoral Management Board indicated that, ideally, any section 30 order and any subsequent legislation should be in place by 1 February 2015. They subsequently stated, however, that since this timetable is unlikely to be realistic, any section 30 order and associated legislation needed to be in place by the end of June 2015 at the latest, i.e. before the canvass for the next Scottish Parliament election commences from 1 August 2015.

In replying to my original letter of 15 December 2015, I would be grateful if you can take the above information into account and provide assurances that steps will be taken in order that we can meet the timetable recommended to us by the Electoral Management Board for Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Crawford MSP  
Convener