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

28 May 2015

Dear Bruce,

I am writing to let you know that the Government has today introduced the Scotland Bill to Parliament on the first day after the Queen's Speech marking the new legislative session. The full text of the Bill and Explanatory Notes can be found here:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

The introduction of the Scotland Bill marks another crucial milestone on Scotland's journey towards becoming one of the most devolved nations in the world whilst retaining the considerable strengths and benefits of being a part of the United Kingdom. I firmly believe that the Bill will fully deliver on the Smith Commission Agreement signed up to by all five of Scotland's main political parties.

There is, of course, more work to be done on the Bill, and I am glad that both the UK Parliament and the Scottish Parliament will have ample opportunity to scrutinise and debate these measures and that the Bill will be subject to line by line scrutiny on the floor of the House in the UK Parliament. I am also sure that members across both Parliaments will want to take on board the thorough and constructive report which your Committee produced as they scrutinise the Bill's provisions. You will note that I made significant changes to the previously published draft clauses.

As I mentioned to you when we met last week, I very much look forward to discussing the Bill with your committee before the end of June. My office is in touch about the necessary arrangements. However, I should be clear at this stage that the Bill is likely to be debated on the floor of the House for a significant number of sitting days in June, and, as such, it is difficult to confirm my exact availability until we have a better idea of the timetable. I would encourage you also to take evidence on the bill from Professor Adam Tomkins whom I have recently appointed as a constitutional advisor to the Scotland Office. He was, as you are aware, a member of the Smith Commission and would also be happy to attend your committee on a mutually convenient date should you extend an invitation to him.

Rt Hon DAVID MUNDELL MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND

CC. Clerk of the Devolution (Further Powers) Committee, Mr Stephen Imrie