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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

22 January 2015

Dear Bruce,

Command paper and draft clauses: Scotland in the United Kingdom: An Enduring Settlement'

I am writing to let you know the UK Government has today published a command paper that includes draft clauses to deliver the Smith Commission Agreement. A copy can be found here:
<http://www.gov.co.uk/government/publications/scotland-in-the-united-kingdom-an-enduring-settlement>.

On 18 September 2014 the people of Scotland made a positive choice to remain part of the UK. The Smith Commission, chaired by Lord Smith of Kelvin, was established the following day to facilitate cross-party talks on the devolution of further powers to the Scottish Parliament within the United Kingdom. On 27 November 2014 the Smith Commission Agreement was published, which reflected the agreement of all of Scotland's five main political parties.

The Smith Commission Agreement was welcomed by the UK Government and we committed to producing draft clauses by Burns' Night 2015. I am pleased to send you the command paper and draft clauses today. This is ahead of the deadline we set out and demonstrates this Government's commitment to honouring the vow and meeting the timetable we set out. I know the Committee is likely to want to consider the draft clauses and I am happy to come and speak to the Committee about these.

Following today's publication, future engagement will build on this contribution from the Stakeholder Group and wider civic Scotland, as work continues to prepare the draft legislation for introduction to the UK Parliament after the General Election. We will also undertake bilateral engagement with stakeholders on specific provisions that are of interest to them, and the UK Government will seek to bring together a wide forum of stakeholders to ensure that the clauses are given full consideration ahead of introduction.

Yours ever,

Alistair

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