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Committee

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Thank you for your letter of 26 March 2025 seeking the Scottish Government's agreement to the expedited scrutiny process for affirmative instruments made under certain Acts.

I am pleased that the DPLR Committee and Conveners' Group have now approved a formalised process for situations where the Scottish Government wishes to request expediting an affirmative instrument which could otherwise be made affirmative under the Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008, the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 or the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022.

I agree with the Committee that any such expedited affirmative procedure must allow for robust scrutiny and consider that the process set out provides sufficient clarity and flexibility for the specific circumstances in which it might be used. On that basis, I am happy to confirm that the Scottish Government agrees to the process as set out in your letter.

JAMIE HEPBURN

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