



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

Stuart McMillan MSP  
Convener, Delegated Powers and Law Reform  
Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
*Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and  
Communities*  
*Minister for Intergovernmental Relations*

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and  
Communities**

4th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Email: [Michael.Gove@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Gove@levellingup.gov.uk)

15 November 2022

Dear Stuart,

Thank you for your letter of 6 October to Nadhim Zahawi, the former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, regarding delegated powers in UK Parliament Bills. I am responding as the Minister now responsible for Intergovernmental Relations.

I agree with and echo the points raised by my colleague Greg Clark, the former Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in his response to your letter of 12 July. As he outlined, when making secondary legislation on devolved matters, UK Ministers will of course continue to seek the consent of Scottish Ministers where there is an existing political commitment or a statutory requirement to do so. In the spirit of the principles of communication, consultation, and cooperation set out in the Devolved Memorandum of Understanding, we will of course continue to engage constructively with the Devolved Governments to develop future secondary legislation on devolved matters.

It remains the case though that it is sometimes appropriate for the UK Government to take delegated powers in devolved areas, to be more efficient, ensure coherence across the UK, and to make it easier for our stakeholders by providing just one set of regulations to follow.

Due to diary pressures, I regret that I will be unable to accept your invitation to appear in front of the committee in December. I hope to be able to attend the committee in the future, but for the moment I would point you towards the letter from my predecessor, Greg Clark, on 14 August, where he laid out the UK Government's position on these issues.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

**With every good wish,**

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
**Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities**  
**Minister for Intergovernmental Relations**