

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Economy and Gaelic
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibneit
airson Eaconamaidh agus Gàidhlig
Kate Forbes MSP
Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA



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Mr Kenneth Gibson
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email: fpa.committee@parliament.scot

26 February 2025

Dear Kenneth,

I am writing to inform you that the eighth meeting of the Interministerial Standing Committee (IMSC) has been scheduled to take place remotely on Thursday 27 February. The IMSC is the middle-tier forum responsible for cross-cutting issues agreed under the [Review of Intergovernmental Relations](#).

In line with the rotating chairing arrangements in the Review of Intergovernmental Relations, the meeting will be jointly chaired by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland on this occasion .

In light of the Finance and Public Administration Committee's ongoing inquiry into the Scottish Government's Public Service Reform programme, which includes a focus on digitalisation and innovation, I am writing to inform you that I expect there to be discussion of the role of technology in public service reform.

I intend to stress that the Scottish Government's has a clear programme for public service reform. We are also currently refreshing our Joint Digital Strategy with our colleagues in local government and are committed to Intergovernmental collaboration with the UK Government and the Devolved Governments on ensuring that digital public services are high quality, joined-up and meet the needs of a modern public sector.

I also intend to take the opportunity to emphasise the Scottish Government's position on the ongoing UK Government statutory review of the Internal Market Act and the need to co-design a Memorandum of Understanding on the Sewel Convention.

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Finally, I also expect there to be discussion of the IMSC's approach to reviewing portfolio-level Interministerial Groups in line with the Review.

I will further update the Committee on the Scottish Government's contribution and the outcome of our discussion following the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

KATE FORBES

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