

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 November 2023 regarding the repeal of Decision No 1082/2013/EU and its replacement with Regulation (EU) 2022/2371, and new research networks being established in Europe.

These are important issues for this Committee to consider. However, these questions are outwith my domain knowledge and would be better directed at the Scottish Government, where I understand officials are directly involved in discussions regarding the Common Framework on Public Health Protection and Health Security, and consideration of Scotland's links to research networks.

It is important that Scotland continues to monitor these developments and ensures that it is as prepared as possible for future pandemics and cross-border threats to public health.

Kind regards,

Professor Andrew Morris