

Economy and Fair Work Committee

4 October 2023

Thank you for your letter of 29 June, considered by the Committee this morning.

As you note, there has been a growing practice of the Scottish Government lodging motions under general rules to ensure a parliamentary debate and vote on not giving consent. I am aware, since the UK's exit from the EU, that the Scottish Parliament's consent has been withheld more frequently than was the case prior to that.

In response and in recognition of the Parliament's scrutiny role exercised through Committees, this Committee agrees with the proposal for a new rule that sets out procedure for refusing consent. The Committee is content with the proposed wording.

On the question of whether the Scottish Government should be required to lodge a motion in every case (whether consent is recommended or not), the view of the Committee is that there should be a requirement (Option B in your letter).

Finally, the Committee agrees that it should only be possible to lodge a motion refusing legislative consent, if a corresponding legislative consent memorandum has been lodged.