



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Presiding Officer
Rt Hon Alex Fergusson MSP

Drew Scott
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Dear Professor Scott,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January regarding the Scotland Bill Committee meeting of Tuesday 11 January.

I should begin by clarifying that the conduct of committee meetings is the responsibility of conveners alone. I have therefore forwarded your letter to the convener of the Scotland Bill Committee so that your specific concerns can be considered in the appropriate forum.

In relation to the more general points you raise, I would wish to acknowledge the strong tradition of our committees in engaging constructively with the academic community. That engagement has enabled many academic experts to make a valuable contribution to the scrutiny of legislation and government policies. The scrutiny process quite properly involves the testing of all available evidence in order to achieve robust conclusions. In my experience, committees have sought over the years to balance the interests and expectations of all those involved, as a result of which the Parliament has, I believe, come to be regarded as an institution with a genuine interest in engagement.

With that in mind and now that the issues have been well aired, I sincerely hope that all those involved in this important examination are able to find ways to continue working constructively together.

Yours sincerely

ALEX FERGUSSON