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Fiona Hyslop MSP
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CMS 267574/asg
17th June 2015

Dear Fiona,

BBC Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Many thanks for your letter concerning the drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). I agree that the proposed change to the third bullet ensures that the MoU is closer in tone and content to the Smith Agreement. This also addresses the points raised by the Scottish Parliament's Education and Culture Committee in their deliberations last week, as their view was that the MoU should: '*...deliver the spirit and substance of the Smith Commission recommendations*'.

I further note the views of the Public Audit Committee, particularly on the provision of Scotland specific information in the BBC's annual report and accounts, which you have referenced in your letter. I agree with your view that these issues should be addressed through the Charter review process itself.

I am pleased that we have reached a form of words for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which all signatories are now content.

I look forward to our respective Governments working collaboratively in the coming years, both in terms of the Charter review itself, and across a broad range of policy issues.

Yours ever

John

Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

