ADDITIONAL WRITTEN EVIDENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND TO SCOTTISH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

There is ongoing and frequent engagement between the UK Government and Scottish Government.

**Joint Ministerial Committee engagement**

The Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations) (JMC(EN)) is attended by representatives from the UK government and devolved administrations. It has met sixteen times. The most recent meeting was on 7 February 2019 and was attended by the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations, Michael Russell MSP. At the meeting, the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union provided an update on the progress of the EU exit negotiations as well as developments in Parliament. The Committee also discussed domestic issues, including updates on operational readiness, the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill and common frameworks. The next meeting of JMC(EN) is currently scheduled for 9 May 2019.

The Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) (JMC(E)) has continued to meet quarterly, mainly ahead of European Council meetings. The meetings provide an opportunity for ministers from the devolved administrations to input on UK positions on ongoing EU business. There have been two meetings this year, on 28 January 2019 and 18 March 2019. The Scottish Government was represented by Ben McPherson MSP, Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development, on both occasions.

The Ministerial Forum (EU Negotiations) (MF(EN)), co-chaired by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union, Robin Walker MP, and the Minister for the Constitution, Chloe Smith MP, has met eight times since it was established in May 2018. There have been two meetings of MF(EN) this year - on 31 January and 25 February 2019. Graeme Dey MSP, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans and Ash Denham MSP, Minister for Community Safety, attended the meeting for Scottish Government on 31 January. The meeting on 25 February in Cardiff discussed data protection in the context of our
future relationship with the EU and the Scottish Government was represented by Graeme Dey MSP.

**EU Exit and intergovernmental relations related engagement and joint working**

There is ongoing official-level engagement with the Scottish Government and other devolved administrations to discuss the policy detail behind topics relating to the future relationship with the EU. There have been over 30 meetings to date.

The joint UK Government and Devolved Administration review of intergovernmental relations is ongoing. The review is considering issues such as the enhanced role of the devolved administrations in the next phase of EU negotiations and the work on establishing common frameworks. Officials from each administration attend a regular IGR Review Project Board.

Representatives from UK government and devolved administrations, including the Scottish Government, have worked closely together over the last year on the Common Frameworks analysis paper which was published on 4 April. The analysis gives a shared platform for this crucial work going forward.

**Intergovernmental working on specific policy areas**

The monthly Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) is attended by Ministers from the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments, as well as representatives from the Northern Ireland Executive. It has met three times so far this year and discusses a range of issues affecting the DEFRA portfolio, such as the Agriculture Bill and Fisheries Bill. Discussions on these Bills are ongoing and we will continue take on board views, and work with all the DAs according to the established practices - just as we have always done.

The Joint Ministerial Working Group on Welfare (JMWGW) was established in February 2015 to provide a forum for discussion and decision-making to ensure the implementation of welfare and employment-related aspects of the Scotland Act 2016. To date there have been 12 JMWGW meetings, with the most recent on 1 April 2019. The Scottish Government was represented by Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People. The next meeting of the JMWGW is scheduled for 27 June 2019.
Close engagement between UK Government and Scottish Government on Scotland Act Orders (SAOs). These are used to implement or adjust Scotland's devolution settlement. In February and March of this year, four SAOs were prioritised and laid during an exceptionally busy time in the UK Parliament. It was agreed by both governments to deliver the full devolution of forestry management by 1 April 2019, and two of these Orders facilitated this.

The recent signing of the Heads of Terms for the Ayrshire Growth deal was the result of positive collaboration between the UK Government, Scottish Government and Local Partners, at both official and political level. Governance arrangements for City/Growth Deals are overseen by the Scottish City Region Deal Delivery Board, jointly chaired by UK Government and Scottish Government at official level who meet on a quarterly basis. The Secretary of State for Scotland met with Michael Matheson, the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity in January 2019 to discuss all of the current Deals in negotiation or implementation and aspirations for the areas that have yet to formally have a Growth Deal announced.

UK Government has worked closely on the Scottish Government Innovation and Investment Hubs in Dublin, Berlin and Paris, as well as offices in the US, Canada and China. Each of these is based within British Embassies (or High Commission in the case of Canada).

The Strategy for our Veterans\(^1\), published in November 2018, was produced jointly between the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments, and including the Northern Ireland Office. It recognises that veterans live across the UK and draw on services from across governments and outlines a new vision and principles to support those who served and their families.

**Joint working to develop devolution capability**
The Civil Service Interchange scheme in October 2018 saw 38 civil servants from across the UK spend a week in Scotland, shadowing counterparts across the

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\(^1\) ‘The Strategy for Our Veterans’ November 2018
Scottish Government. The UK Government will host the next Interchange Week in June 2019, with participants from all administrations expected to attend.

May 2019