



Baroness Anderson of Stoke on Trent
Baroness-in-Waiting [Government Whip]
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

The Baroness Humphreys
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

27 May 2025

Dear Baroness Humphreys,

Thank you for your contribution to the Debate on the Constitution Committee's Governance of the Union Report on the 28th April. I welcome your perspective on this issue, and particularly your observation of this Government's positive early engagement with the devolved governments on UK Legislation. Like you, I welcome this clear sign that we are putting our manifesto commitment to reset relationships with the devolved governments into practice.

I note your suggestion that enhanced joint timetabling should be included in an updated version of the Devolution Guidance Notes, ensuring that your Lordships' House can debate legislation after LCM committee reports have been published. This government is committed to respecting the devolved governments and legislatures, including the integrity of their protocols and standing orders. It is for the Scottish Parliament, the Senedd and the Northern Ireland Assembly to set timetables for scrutiny of UK legislation, and for their committees to report on their findings.

As you know, this Government is committed to delivering a new Memorandum of Understanding with the devolved governments on legislation. This memorandum will seek to agree principles of positive, early engagement in order to facilitate the delivery of legislation as effectively as possible. There are currently no plans to update the Devolution Guidance Notes. I hope that this provides the assurances necessary that we agree on the importance of timings.

Thank you for your correspondence on this topic. I am copying this letter to all those who contributed and will place a copy in the House library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ruth Anderson'.

**Baroness Anderson of Stoke on Trent
Baroness-in-Waiting**