

An Fhìor Urr Humza Yousaf BPA
Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP
Am Prìomh Mhinistear
First Minister of Scotland



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22 November 2023

Dear All

Thank you for your e-mail of 26 October 2023 about the United Kingdom Internal Market Act (IMA), and for sharing the letter sent to the Prime Minister on behalf of environmental and public health organisations across the UK. I wholeheartedly agree with the view set out in the letter that the IMA undermines devolved legislatures and risks progress in environmental and public health policy.

The Scottish Government is committed to maintaining the highest possible environmental and public health standards and to ensuring policy and legislation is developed in a way that is consistent with those important standards.

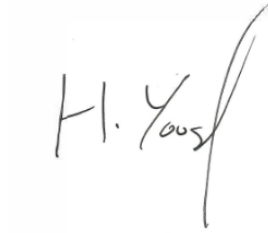
The Scottish Government remains wholly opposed to the Internal Market Act, which as you know was imposed on the Scottish Parliament without its consent. It fundamentally alters the devolution settlement and has the potential to diminish or constrain the effect of devolved laws passed in Scotland. We have already seen important Scottish legislation to establish Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme being undermined by this damaging Act to the extent that we have had no option but to delay its introduction.

I have asked Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture who leads on matters relating to the IMA, to take forward discussion with you and the other signatories to the letter, involving Mairi McAllan MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition. Angus's office will be in touch with you to discuss how best to take that forward.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire
Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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Thank you again for sharing these important views with me and I look forward to hearing about these discussions from my Ministerial colleagues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Yousaf', with a long, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

HUMZA YOUSAF