

Minister for Parliamentary Business

25 January 2024

Thank you for your letter of 29 June 2023 seeking my views on the Committee's proposed changes to Rule 9B of the Scottish Parliament's Standing Orders. In my previous response of 3 October 2023, I agreed that there was merit in addressing the current position of Rule 9B, namely that the Rule only provides for motions which recommend full or partial consent to provisions in relevant UK Bills.

The Scottish Government's view is that it would be helpful for debates on motions which recommend the withholding of consent to be brought within Rule 9B rather than, as at present, dealt with by motions under Chapter 8.

In the meantime, our respective officials have discussed the detail around the drafting of the changes to Rule 9B. A final draft of Rule 9B has been prepared and I am content with the proposed draft.