

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
First Minister of Scotland



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Thank you for your recent email regarding the EU Referendum result and the possible options for Scotland going forwards.

Firstly, let me acknowledge with thanks your generous offer of help and expertise at this time. As I have made clear, the Scottish Government continues to believe that membership of the European Union is in the best interests of Scotland - for our economy, our society, our culture and our place in the world.

Scotland voted to stay inside the single market and to protect the jobs, investment and trade that depend on it. More than 60% of voters across Scotland – and a majority in every single one of our 32 local authority areas – said clearly that they wanted Scotland to stay in the EU.

As you mentioned in your email, on 28 June I secured a mandate from the Scottish Parliament to explore options for protecting Scotland's relationship with the EU. Work is now underway by the Scottish Government on my three key priorities: offering reassurance to those affected by the result; engaging with businesses, organisations and other stakeholders to communicate the Scottish Government's position and listen to their views and concerns; and pursuing all the available options to protect Scotland's relationship with the EU.

Indeed as you will be aware I visited Brussels on the 29 June where I met with Jean-Claude Juncker (President of the European Commission); Martin Schulz (President of the European Parliament); Leaders of European Parliament political groups; and Scottish MEPs.

These meetings form part of a comprehensive programme of engagement by the Scottish Government with our business community, third sector, EU citizens and diplomatic community to ensure Scotland's continuing relationship with Europe.

To advise the Scottish Government on how to protect Scotland's place in the EU, I have also formed a Standing Council on Europe comprising specialists in legal, European, financial,

business and diplomatic matters, which met on the 14 July and 29 August (further information can be found here - <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Standing-Council-on-Europe-25c6.aspx>)

As matters develop, there may be a requirement for further contributions and we may call on your expertise as former Chair for the Campaign for Home Rule. We will keep your offer of assistance on file for further consideration on future possibilities.

Thanks again for your interest and for taking the time to get in touch.

With very best wishes,

Would be good to catch up soon.  
Best wishes  
Nicola

**NICOLA STURGEON**