Rt Hon John Swinney MSP
An Fhìor Urr John Swinney BPA
First Minister of Scotland
Am Prìomh Mhinistear

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Trina Budge, Marion Calder, Susan Smith
Directors
For Women Scotland

By email: info@forwomen.scot

25 August 2026

Dear Ms Budge, Ms Calder and Ms Smith,

Further to your letter of 3 March addressed to my Independent Advisers, I am now responding directly. Since receiving your correspondence, Lady Ross has issued her judgment in For Women Scotland Ltd v Scottish Ministers, and I have considered that judgment before issuing my response.

I would like to refer you to the published Terms of Reference of the Independent Advisers on the Scottish Government website. The Advisers are appointed to advise me on matters relating to the Ministerial Code. As such, they do not comment on investigations or recommendations to third parties. They consider this restriction is a matter of propriety and is fully consistent with their defined role.

I am happy to confirm again the fact that the Government accepts the ruling from the Supreme Court.

Yours

JOHN SWINNEY MSP

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