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Rt. Hon. Christopher Geidt CVO OBE
Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen
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Dear Christopher,

Flying the Banner of the Royal Arms

My office and yours have had a number of exchanges since May 2007 about the flying of the Banner of the Royal Arms. I have expressed to Her Majesty my desire that we should make more use of the Royal Banner as a symbol of the pride we have both in the relationship between the Monarch and the Scottish people and in her special association with Scotland. You have also been kind enough to confirm that, as one of her Majesty's Officers in Scotland, I have the privilege and honour of being able to fly the Royal Banner at any time outside Government buildings in which I am undertaking my appointed role as First Minister and Keeper of the Great Seal.

We have previously made arrangements for the flying of the Banner of the Royal Arms on St. Andrew's Day, and this has proved highly successful. In future I intend to make use of the privilege graciously bestowed on me by Her Majesty more frequently. In particular, I intend to take the opportunity as it arises to fly the Banner of the Royal Arms at St. Andrew's House on those nominated flag-flying days associated with Royal Anniversaries, and have instructed my officials accordingly.

I know that in previous correspondence reference has been made to the role of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It has since become clear – not least from the DCMS' own guidance - that flag-flying policy is devolved, and it has no role in such matters.

I trust that this is acceptable to Her Majesty.

Alex Salmond
Chris Geidt

ALEX SALMOND