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THE PRIME MINISTER

9 December 2016



Dear Nicola

Thank you for your letter of 29 October, responding to my minute regarding the Race Disparity Audit.

I am disappointed you do not think full participation in the audit is right for Scotland, especially as I believe you are committed to the principles which the Audit embodies. The aim of the Audit is to highlight differences in outcomes for people of different races and backgrounds, based on robust evidence and data. That is an essential first step in challenging unfairness.

I have no doubt that this audit will reveal difficult truths, but we should not be apologetic about shining a light on disparities where they exist. I welcome your agreement to discussions between officials from the Cabinet Office Race Disparity Unit and Scottish Government officials to share perspectives and approaches. Officials will shortly visit Edinburgh and Glasgow to do this.

I hope in the fullness of time the value of the Audit will become more evident and you will feel able to participate more fully.

Yours sincerely
Rishi

The Right Honourable Nicola Sturgeon MSP