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Thank you for taking the time to meet to discuss the Barclay review reforms on business rates relief granted to golf clubs in Scotland. I found it to be a very helpful and informative meeting and welcome your on-going commitment to an open and constructive dialogue in your role representing the golf clubs in Scotland.

As you are well aware, golf is one of Scotland's unique selling points on the international stage, with Scotland globally recognised as the Home of Golf with golf tourism worth £286 million to Scotland's economy annually, supporting more than 4,400 jobs. We also value the good working with Scottish Golf to maximise the legacy benefits of major events such as next year's Solheim Cup and, of course, the contribution clubs across all of Scotland make to local communities.

I hope our meeting reassured you of the value that the Scottish Government places on golf and that our reforms to business rate relief from 2020 will have no impact on 95% of golf clubs in Scotland. It is anticipated that only a very small number of very affluent, exclusive clubs are likely to be affected and, in those cases, the local Council will have discretion to continue to provide relief under the Community Empowerment Act 2015.

During our meeting I also reaffirmed my commitment that we will continue to work with the sector and Scottish Golf in bringing forward these changes.

I am happy for the contents of this letter to be shared among your membership.

DEREK MACKAY

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