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Dear Nicola

I am writing to resign as a Scottish Government Minister.

It has been a privilege and honour to serve nearly eight years in a variety of roles, both under you and Alex Salmond. I look forward to continuing to support this government and continuing to represent my home constituency of Almond Valley.

During my time as a Minister, I was pleased to have played a part in increasing the rates of youth employment and laying the foundations of our reform programme in education.

I am particularly proud of the achievements made in my time as Communities, Social Security and Equalities Secretary. As a government we are on track to deliver our commitment to deliver 50,000 affordable homes in this parliamentary term, and of course we have taken on with enthusiasm the devolution of new powers to enable us to build a Scottish social security system based on dignity and respect. This has shown without doubt, that powers in Scotland can deliver for the needs of the people of Scotland.

The Scottish Government shares the aspirations of the people of Scotland to make our country a beacon of social progress internationally, and I am proud that we have placed such a strong emphasis on standing up for human rights – both at home and abroad. This has never more been clearer than this government's strong stance on protecting the rights of refugees – which in times of international uncertainty is particularly important.

In addition, not only is Scotland considered one of the best places in Europe on LGBTI+ rights, but we have continued to speak up for the rights of disabled people, women – I am very pleased that I was able to bring about the Gender Representation on Public Boards Act - and many others who continue to face discrimination in their daily lives. I know that the work I have started on gypsy travellers will continue and that is all to our credit.

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I am particularly proud of the work I have taken forward on tackling child poverty. This is an issue that has always been close to my heart and I leave government immensely gratified that we have a Child Poverty Act that sets our ambition to end child poverty and an ambitious and challenging Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan to get us there. This is where we can make a difference to the people of Scotland and it's been an honour to play a role in that.

I have been very lucky throughout my political life to have had the support of my family and there is no doubt that without them I couldn't have undertaken the many roles I have had the privilege of occupying. I look forward to spending more time with them and my growing son.



**ANGELA CONSTANCE**

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