28 February 2013

Dear Margaret

TACKLING SECTARIANISM IN SCOTLAND

As part of the Scottish Government’s commitment to tackling sectarianism I commissioned the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland to provide independent, impartial advice on the issue and set out actions needed to tackle this issue in a robust and holistic way. The Advisory Group published their report on 13 December 2013 and it can be found at [http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/12/6197](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/12/6197).

Following your Equal Opportunity committee meeting with Dr Duncan Morrow (Chair) and Dr Michael Rosie on 20 February 2014 you will be aware that the Advisory Group’s report has recommendations which are relevant for a variety of organisations across Scotland. Today I have published the Scottish Government’s response to the Advisory Group’s report and this can be found at [http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/02/1635](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/02/1635).

I am pleased to confirm that the Advisory Group will be continuing their work until 31 March 2015 to gather further evidence and provide advice on this issue and this will allow further engagement and your views and opinions to be considered by the Advisory Group in relation to the future advice they will be providing. Finally, I can confirm that the Advisory Group secretariat, which is provided by the Community Safety Unit of the Scottish Government, will be happy to assist you in arranging a further meeting with the Advisory Group. If you wish to take up this offer you can contact Nicola Thomson at Nicola.thomson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

By working in a holistic way we can tackle the scourge of sectarianism once and for all and make our communities better places for everyone to live in.

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