Consultation

Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill, and if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
1. Although there was no formal consultation on the proposals contained within the Bill, discussions did take between representatives from the Scottish Government and SPS regarding the practical implications of the proposals. These discussions included the estimated increase in the numbers of persons in SPS custody as a result of the implementation of these proposals and the financial implications for SPS.

If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
2. Yes.

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
3. Not applicable, as there has been no formal consultation; however as described in answer to question 1 there were discussions between the Scottish Government and the SPS.

Costs

If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.
4. Based on the information provided by Scottish Government colleagues regarding the likely impact the proposals will have on the numbers of persons in SPS custody we consider that the financial implications for SPS have been accurately reflected in the FM.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?
5. The estimated costs are reasonable and accurate based on the assumptions made by the Scottish Government.

If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?
6. As described in the FM the impact on prisoner numbers of ending automatic early release for certain categories of prisoner will build up over time, with the initial impact relatively limited in the early years. SPS will require the Scottish Government to ensure that the overall pressures on the prison estate arising from these reforms, and other legislative reforms, are met through future justice spending review settlements.

SPS anticipate that the costs associated with the provisions relating to ‘release timed to benefit re-integration’ will be minimal and that SPS will be able to absorb them.
Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?

7. Yes, based on the assumptions and estimates provided by the Scottish Government regarding the impact on the numbers of persons to be detained in SPS custody.

Wider Issues
Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?

8. Yes.

Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?