FINANCE COMMITTEE CALL FOR EVIDENCE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION (SCOTLAND) BILL:

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM SUBMISSION FROM WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

Consultation
Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

1. No

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

2. N/A

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?

3. N/A

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. It is impossible to predict when a local authority will have to deal with human trafficking cases. However, when such a situation occurs there are significant costs attached to providing interpreting services and also in the case of children providing suitable accommodation.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?

5. No, where Local authorities have responsibility for looking after minors this can cost upwards of £15,000 per month.

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. Local authorities have no funding to meet these costs. It is expected that any additional costs would be fully funded.

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. As stated above it is impossible to anticipate when a local authority will have to deal with a human trafficking case and therefore difficult to attach recurring funding to this issue.

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. No, where a local authority has responsibility for looking after children this is not fully reflected in the Bill.

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?

9. We are unaware of any associated future costs.