Justice Committee
Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill

Written submission from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

The committee has today launched a call for evidence to hear views from the people who will be working directly with this new law, and importantly those who it seeks to help.

In particular, the committee is looking to hear:

- If there is a consensus with the idea of introducing this category of offence, which would criminalise non-violent but abusive behaviour, and its workability in practice;
- What factors might influence the reporting, investigating and prosecuting of the proposed offence;
- Whether the Bill sufficiently takes into account the impact of domestic abuse on children;
- Views on the Government’s definitions of “abusive behaviour”, “partner”, “ex-partner”; the Evidence of Impact on Victim and other stipulations set out in the Bill.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue service support the broach approach of the Domestic Abuse Bill however it is not appropriate for SFRS to provide comment to the questions below as the service will not be working directly with this new law.

SFRS are fully committed to support the Scottish Governments Equally Safe Strategy to eradicate violence against women and girls and will contribute to this consultation. Through our safeguarding Policies and Procedures SFRS will promote the Scottish Governments vision of Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse – and the attitudes that help perpetuate it.

The service are working in partnership with the Scottish Government, the Violence Reduction Unit and Medics against Violence to engage members of SFRS to support the prevention of Domestic Abuse.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
27 April 2017