Scottish Government Letter of 15 November 2016

I am writing further to your letter of 28 October 2016 on behalf of the Public Petitions Committee. Following its meeting on 27 October, wherein Petition 1551 (Mandatory reporting of child abuse) was discussed, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government to ask how it intends to engage with the UK Government on the issue of mandatory reporting, now that the UK Government’s consultation on the issue has closed.

Following the closure of the ‘Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect’ consultation on 13 October 2016, officials from the Scottish Government contacted the relevant UK Government officials to reiterate our interest in the outcome of the consultation, and seeking an update on when they expect to publish their response. UK officials confirmed that they are currently reviewing and analysing the consultation responses. Once they have completed this analysis, they will provide initial advice to Ministers. They confirmed that they are not yet in a position to make any public commitments about the timings of any response to the consultation, but expect to be in a position to do so early in 2017.

The relevant UK officials have, however, reconfirmed that they are very happy to continue engagement with the Scottish Government as they move further through the process, and will remain in touch to advise of the submission of advice, and any publications related to the consultation.

We will provide a further update to the Committee in early 2017.