Scottish Government submission of 7 November 2017

I am writing further to your letter of 4 July 2017 on behalf of the Public Petitions Committee. Following its meeting on 15 June, wherein the above Petition 1551 was discussed, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government to outline their view of the merits of further discussion of mandatory reporting within a Scottish context.

The Scottish Government has considered the Committee’s discussion and acknowledges that the context around matters of child protection in Scotland differs in a number of ways to that in England and Wales. We also recognise that any conclusions reached by the UK Government following the completion of their analysis of responses to their consultation “Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect”, would require to be further considered within the Scottish context.

Officials from the Scottish Government contacted the relevant UK Government officials in October 2017. Those officials confirmed that they are still reviewing and analysing the consultation responses and remain unable to provide an indicative date for publishing their findings.

The Scottish Government has had informal engagement with key stakeholders on the matter of mandatory reporting over this summer period. We will continue this informal engagement with key stakeholders in January 2018. We will provide a report to the Committee in February 2018 on the outcome of this engagement.