

# **PE1887/P: Create an Unborn Victims of Violence Act**

## **Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs written submission, 5 March 2025**

Thank you for your email of 10 February asking for an update on our considerations of [PE1887: Create an Unborn Victims of Violence Act](#).

In my previous response of 2 July 2024, I set out my intention for officials to progress discussions with justice partners on this issue as I fully recognise the appalling experience of the Petitioner and that more needs to be done to address violence against women, particularly when the victim is pregnant, and the violence leads to a tragic loss.

As part of those discussions, consideration has been given to potential next steps which would improve the position of women such as the petitioner who have experienced this dreadful loss. I am pleased to advise that these discussions have taken place in a constructive and productive manner and have focussed on the potential to develop a statutory aggravator for causing miscarriage through acts of domestic abuse, and importantly how this could operate in practice.

This has included consideration of potential legislative vehicles that might be used to progress any relevant amendments to the existing legislative position.

I should also advise that this matter was raised during a recent evidence session with the Criminal Justice Committee, at Stage 1 of the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill. I agreed to discuss this matter in more detail with the Convener, and I am pleased that a meeting has been scheduled for later this month.

I also remain focused on ensuring that we proactively engage with the Petitioner as well as other stakeholders as we develop work in this area.

I will of course look to keep the Committee advised of any further developments.

Yours sincerely,

**ANGELA CONSTANCE**