

# Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance submission of 14 September 2023

## PE1902/E: Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance

Thank you for your letter dated 15 February 2023 on behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee regarding Community Participation Requests. Please accept my apologies for the long delay in responding to you.

Members of the Committee will be aware of the independent evaluation of participation request legislation conducted by Glasgow Caledonian University. Their report which was published in April 2020 concluded that due to the low numbers of participation requests submitted, it was too early to determine whether an appeal process was required and that further exploration was needed.

Therefore, the Scottish Government commissioned the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) to explore a potential appeals process, and in 2021 they formed a workgroup to consider this. As you know, In August 2022 I updated the Committee in writing about SCDC's findings.

Since then the SCDC led group is continuing to explore options and are giving careful consideration to when an appeal could be made; and how if implemented an appeals process could be fair, open and transparent, and who would be best placed to manage that process. SCDC has indicated that more discussion is required on suggested proposals from their working group and will therefore continue to work with the group throughout the remainder of 2023 to further develop these proposals.

Once their work is concluded SCDC will make more detailed proposals available for consideration and we look forward to receiving their findings. This work forms part of the Scottish Government's wider review of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 that is currently underway, and is anticipated to conclude in the early part of 2024. Any changes to part 3 of the Act will follow the conclusion of the wider review.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Tom Arthur MSP  
Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance