



Clare Adamson MSP  
Convenor  
Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

By Email

24 January 2023

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter of 19 January and your invitation to appear before your Committee this week with regard to the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill.

I write to advise that my position remains as I set out to the Convenor of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, in response to an invitation I received on 17 January 2023. That is, in light of the First Minister's view that this matter will "inevitably end up in court" I do not believe it would be appropriate to attend at this time.

However, the Committee may wish to be aware that in response to her letter of 20 January, I discussed the UK Government's position with Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, in a meeting this morning.

I enclose a copy of my statement to Parliament on Tuesday 17 January, and accompanying documents which set out my reasons for using a section 35 order to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill proceeding to Royal Assent, which set out my position on the matter.

*Yours sincerely,  
Alister*

**THE RT HON. ALISTER JACK MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND**

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