



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Rt Hon Alister Jack MP
Secretary of State for Scotland

The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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By e-mail

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30 January 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

Section 35 Order in relation to the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

Thank you for your letter of 24 January 2023 responding to the invitation for you to appear before the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee.

The Committee is disappointed that you have declined our invitation to give evidence on the constitutional implications of the UK Government's decision to make an Order under the Scotland Act 1998 for the first time, given the unprecedented nature of the use of this power.

We are aware that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, the lead Committee scrutinising the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill, has written to you with a number of questions on which it would welcome a response. We will also hold an interest in some of these areas, and await your response.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Adamson MSP
Convener of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee