

## Introduction

1. The Criminal Justice Committee published a report (10 January 2022) setting out its [priorities for the criminal justice sector in Scotland and its Action Plan](#).
2. Part of the ongoing work that the Committee will undertake on the Action Plan is to produce a regular assessment of the progress that is being made by the Scottish Government and others to implement the recommendations in the Committee's report where they have been agreed to.
3. The **Annex** to this paper sets out an assessment on progress.
4. The key to the colour coding in the draft assessment is as follows:



Being considered or underway  
Believed to be on track



Completed/information  
has been provided  
Behind schedule or not delivered

## **The impact of COVID and recovery**

<b>Key issue</b>	<b>Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?</b>	<b>Progress against delivery</b>	<b>Notes and additional information</b>
<i>Short-term actions (within 6 to 12 months)</i>			
<b>COVID Recovery</b> - Hold an evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans, following the conclusion of the consultation on COVID-19 recovery	Not applicable	<b>This session has been held.</b>	Evidence taken from the Cabinet Secretary as part of the consideration of the COVID-19 (Reform and Recovery) Bill
<b>COVID Recovery and Prisons</b> - Provision by Scottish Prisons Service (SPS) of a detailed plan for the reinstatement of purposeful activities in prisons, including a timetable for when particular categories of activities will resume	Yes	<b>SPS has provided the information requested. The Committee will keep the situation under review in order to ensure that there is a full roll out of purposeful activities across all establishments in the prison estate</b>	<p><i>[Information provided by the SPS]</i></p> <p>SPS is progressing restoration to a fuller rehabilitative regime where possible while balancing the need to protect the health and wellbeing of those living, visiting and working in our prisons as we transition out of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>A 'Restoration of Services' project supported establishments to return to pre-pandemic regimes by the end of September 2021. However, measures remain in place to allow for regime changes where this is necessary and proportionate, for example, in an outbreak situation.</p> <p>The prison setting is a unique environment meaning that</p>

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			<p>precautionary measures may remain in place to varying extent across the estate for some time.</p> <p>Attendance for purposeful activity had reduced due to the necessity to maintain social distancing measures. It is anticipated that numbers will increase further as SPS continues to manage its way out of the pandemic. Although some establishments have had to utilise the suspension or restriction of elements of the prison regime, these have only been used when absolutely necessary and for as short a period of time as possible.</p>
<p><b>COVID Recovery and Prisons -</b> Commitment by SPS to regular access to exercise and time outdoor for fresh air, and consideration given to what other activities would be suitable for prisoners on remand</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><b>SPS has provided the information requested. The Committee will keep the situation under review, particularly in relation to purposeful activity and remand prisoners as it wishes to see a full role out of access to exercise and fresh air across all establishments in the prison estate.</b></p>	<p><i>[Information provided by the SPS]</i></p> <p>Time in the Open Air is provided to all individuals in the care of the SPS. A minimum of 1 hour is offered on a daily basis.</p> <p>The only deviation from this has been when establishments have experienced significant impact due to Covid-19 (e.g. an outbreak) and it was deemed necessary to utilise the SSI amendment to either restrict or suspend exercise for as short a period of time as possible.</p>

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		The Committee has written to the SPS to seek confirmation that prisoners across the estate have access to purposeful activity for 1 hour a day.	<p>Establishments have also been looking to maximise access to Purposeful Activity for all in their care. This has meant that there has been some increase in regime developments.</p> <p>Remand numbers have however been significantly higher over the last 24 months, and establishments have tried to provide individuals with more access to Purposeful Activity where possible.</p>
<b>COVID Recovery and Prisons -</b> Information from SPS on progress made in resuming in-person visits, including how arrangements may differ from pre-COVID-19	Yes	SPS has provided the information requested. The Committee will keep the situation under review.	<p><i>[Information provided by the SPS]</i></p> <p>In-person visits resumed on 26 April 2021. Access to in-person visits is available to all individuals in the care of the SPS. The only deviation from this is when there is a requirement to isolate an individual under Covid-19 isolation rules.</p> <p>(<a href="#">The SPS Public Information Page Quarter 4 2021/22 Update</a> (page 22) outlines the increasing access and uptake of in-person visits.)</p>

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			<p>Establishments are continuing to carry out risk assessments in line with Public Health Scotland advice, and arrangements were put in place to assist in mitigating the risk of Covid-19 transmission.</p> <p>Visitors continue to be required to wear face masks (unless exempt) within prison establishments and adhere to physical distancing.</p> <p>SPS has also requested that any visitors do take a Lateral Flow Test prior to the visit, however this is not mandatory.</p> <p>The prison setting is a unique environment meaning that precautionary measures may remain in place which differ to community and other settings. Any changes to this will be set out in the SPS pandemic plan.</p>

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<b>COVID Recovery and Prisons</b> - An update on any inquiries made by the SPS into the use of hacked mobile phones, downloaded e-SIM cards etc by prisoners and a commitment that any problems identified have been addressed.	Yes	<b>SPS has provided the information requested. The Committee will keep the situation under review.</b>	<i>[Information provided by the SPS]</i>  All prison issued mobile phones have the IMEI number blocked prior to issue to prevent the ability for handsets to be used with other SIM cards. This has involved BT making requests to other network providers to block SPS issued phones. SPS also continues to seek further advice from a communications expert on the use of mobile devices as it moves forward in seeking to procure an in cell telephony solution across the prison estate.
<b>COVID Recovery and Prisons</b> - A commitment from SPS that video/mobile technology will continue to be an option for prisoners to contact friends and family members and support services, and that the use of this technology will be expanded throughout the estate in a regulated and controlled manner	Yes	<b>SPS has provided the information requested. The Committee will keep the situation under review, particularly on the procurement of new in cell telephony systems.</b>	<i>[Information provided by the SPS]</i>  Virtual Video Visits continue to be available for individual's friends and family to remain in contact with their loved ones. SPS is currently funding this service, and has been working to maximise the uptake of its usage.  Work is currently underway to identify and procure an in cell telephony solution across the prison estate which will replace the mobile phone devices currently in use.

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<p><b>COVID Recovery and Courts</b> A range of measures to enable the courts to recover from the impact of the pandemic on operations</p>	<p>Yes, but awaiting more information from the SCTS</p>	<p><b>The Committee will need to assess whether the proposed flat cash settlements for the future budgets for SCTS will affect the scope for capital investment projects.</b></p>	<p>The Scottish Government's Vision for Justice refers to the passing of the COVID (Recovery and Reform) Bill, the expansion of remote evidence capability for police and expert witnesses by spring 2022 in the High Court. The Scottish Government's Vision for Justice also refers to SCTS's work on its core digital infrastructure to provide end to end digital solutions for in person, hybrid and virtual criminal, civil and tribunal hearings and FAls</p>

**Prisons and prison reform**

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<i>Short-term actions (within 6 to 12 months)</i>			
<b>Remand</b> – details from the Cabinet Secretary on how he plans to tackle remand numbers	Yes	<b>Consideration of the Bill is to commence shortly.</b>	Reference is made to addressing this through the newly introduced Bail & Release Bill. Additionally, the Government has announced a further £3.2m for bail supervision schemes
<b>Women and children</b> - details from the Cabinet Secretary on how he plans to tackle numbers held and improve the care of these prisoners	Yes		Reference is made to prioritising systemic changes to experiences of women and children in prison and the work of women's Justice Leadership Panel to improve women's rights in the system. Reference also made to new trauma-informed female custody units, rollout of Barnahus and new Whole System Approach to prevent Youth Offending. The Scottish Government's Vision for Justice also refers to gender specific training for prison staff and the development of a therapeutic service model for women. The Vision also refers to the opening of the Bella Centre in Dundee and the Lillias Centre in Glasgow.



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<b>Buvidal</b> – provision of a progress note on rolling out the use of Buvidal across the prison estate	Yes		<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>To ensure same-day access to OST and to ensure that long-acting buprenorphine (brand name Buvidal) is available as medication-assisted treatment option for all those for whom it would be appropriate, the Government has asked all local services to embed and implement new Medication Assisted Treatment standards. Same-day treatment is MAT standard 1 and having long-acting buprenorphine available as a choice is part of MAT standard 2.</p> <p>The MAT programme team have started work with the Scottish Prison Service, National Care Networks (prison and police custody), and specific prisons to raise awareness of the MAT standards and scope out plans for full implementation of the MAT standards.</p> <p>The MAT programme proposes to work with Her Majesty's Prison Perth, local police custody suites and with Dundee, Perth and Kinross, Angus and Fife Health and Social</p>

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			Care partnerships to identify models of care that can ensure the standards are met across the pathways between all settings. The learning from this will be shared nationally to assist scaling up across Scotland.
<b>Photocopying of prisoner mail</b> – introduction of an SSI to change prison rules to help prevent drug smuggling	Yes	<b>The Scottish Government has now passed the relevant SSI to make this change. The Committee will keep the situation under review.</b>	
<b>Recovery cafés</b> – funding for a café in each institution where appropriate	In remains unclear if the Scottish Government supports the Committee's actual recommendation which was for funding for recovery cafés in each institution where appropriate	<b>To be decided. Further information has been requested from the Scottish Government.</b>	<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>The work that recovery communities are involved in doing up and down the country is vital to making recovery visible and gives us all hope for a way forward out of this crisis.</p> <p>The drug and alcohol field in Scotland is very rich in lived and living experience-led initiatives with family support groups, recovery communities, networks of activist drug users and peer navigators and mentors all playing their part.</p>

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			Recovery initiatives within prisons and for newly released prisoners provide vital support and often help individuals to break the cycle of re-offending and turn their lives around.
Residential rehabilitation - funding for improved provision	Yes		<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>We have committed over £23m in new facilities and bed capacity projects at Phoenix Futures, River Garden, NHS Lothian and Aberlour.</p> <p>Our investment in the four projects combined will provide a total increase of 85 beds by 2025/26, boosting the current rehab capacity in Scotland from 425 to 510 beds – an overall increase of 20%.</p> <p>Aberlour will construct two new units to support women and their children through recovery. Phoenix Futures Family Service will offer a unique family-focused recovery programme, River Garden will offer a model of community integration and LEAP (Lothian) is the only statutory provider of residential rehab in Scotland.</p>

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			<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>While there has been progress on increasing numbers of publicly-funded placements, we will further improve pathways into and from residential rehab.</p> <p>The Scottish Government have provided ADPs with £20 million additional funding per year over the next five years, beginning in this financial year. £5 million is allocated to support additional capacity and take up of residential rehabilitation.</p> <p>Public Health Scotland's interim report, published on 26 April 2022, found that 114 residential rehab placements had been approved by ADPs between October and December 2021.</p>
<b>Throughcare</b> – reintroduction of the service in the prison estate	Yes, but indicated this an operational matter for SPS.		<p><i>[Information provided by the SPS]</i></p> <p>SPS is currently undertaking a review to consider the role of SPS in the provision of throughcare and, specifically, the status of its own throughcare support service. Given Community Justice Scotland (CJS)</p>

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			is now undertaking an exercise to consider future commissioning of third-sector throughcare services. SPS is working closely with CJS to ensure that duplication of services are avoided and that any identified service gaps are targeted. This will also ensure that any proposed SPS services, integrate into the wider throughcare landscape.
Access to medical prescriptions upon liberation	Not yet known	To be decided	<p>The Committee added this new recommendation in June 2022 following a meeting with the Wise Group where it was reported there had been a change of prison policy. Previously, upon liberation, prisoners received a hard copy list of prescriptions to give to a local GP. There is now electronic communication between the prison and the GP but it is being reported that this is, for some prisoners, causing problems in timely access to the medications then need on release.</p> <p>The SPS wrote to the Committee on 24 July 2022 to confirm that the responsibility and accountability for healthcare to prisoners in Scotland transferred from the Scottish Prison</p>

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			Service (SPS) to NHS Health Boards in November 2011.
<i>Long-term actions (within this parliamentary session)</i>			
<b>Under 18s</b> – delivery of the manifesto commitment not to hold under 18s in HMP YOI Polmont	Yes	<b>Further information is being sought from the Scottish Government</b>	<p>Reference made to inclusion of this provision in forthcoming Children's Care and Justice Bill (no date provided for introduction). The Scottish Government's Vision for Justice also refers to a framework for community alternatives to remand by September 2022. The Vision also refers to a whole system approach being developed for 18-26 year olds from June 2022 onwards.</p> <p>Recent news announcements suggest progress is now being made.</p>
<b>Under 18s/Secure care</b> – change to prison rules to permit over 18s to remain in secure care if they do not have long left on any sentence imposed i.e. not immediately transfer from secure care to HMP YOI Polmont	Yes	<b>Further information is being sought from the Scottish Government</b>	<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>The consultation on the Children's Care and Justice Bill – which is live until 22 June – outlines background to this issue and proposes that children should be able to remain in secure care beyond their 18th birthday, where necessary and in their best interests, to avoid the practice outlined in this</p>

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			recommendation from the committee. It also has specific questioning on the best approach. The Bill is a current Programme for Government commitment. We are consulting across a range of topics, alongside a raft of engagement with stakeholders and partners, in order to listen to views ahead of measures being introduced to Holyrood for full Parliamentary scrutiny
<b>Tackling drug use in prisons</b> – report from the SPS on its plans and reduction in the statistics for the prevalence in prisons	Yes	<b>SPS has provided the information requested. The Committee will keep the situation under review.</b>	<p><i>[Information provided by the SPS]</i></p> <p>SPS has security measures to prevent, detect and deter the introduction of contraband entering the estate.</p> <p>SPS and Police Scotland work closely to tackle the use of illegal drugs, deploying a wide range of robust security measures to prevent contraband entering prisons. Ongoing training for SPS search dogs to identify new and emerging substances is being carried out with support from Dundee University.</p> <p>There is also a pilot project ongoing in relation to the use of an x-ray body scanner at HMP Barlinnie</p>

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			<p>which, so far, has proved to be very successful in identifying illicit substances secreted about the body for those individuals being admitted to custody and for any individuals returning from community access.</p> <p>On 16 December 2021 a change was made to Prison Rules which provided SPS with the power to photocopy prisoner's general correspondence as an operational mitigation against the risk of the introduction of illicit substances through contaminated paper entering prisons.</p> <p>As outlined in the letter to Committee on 19 May 2022 from Teresa Medhurst, the implementation of photocopying of general correspondence continues to have a positive impact across all establishments. This includes a sustained reduction in 'drug takes incidents' including those presenting as under the influence and also the need to call upon external support from NHS and the Scottish Ambulance Service colleagues.</p>



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			SPS has seen a shift in the entry route for illicit substances. Prior to the implementation of the photocopying of mail SSI, mail had been a significant route for illicit substances being trafficked into the establishments. SPS is now experiencing this trafficking through other avenues, for example, contained within personal property for individuals sent into the establishment.
<b>Remand</b> – reduction in the overall numbers held on remand in prisons	Yes	<b>Remand numbers are not yet falling. The recognises the Scottish Government's plans to address this and the Committee will keep numbers under review.</b>	Remand numbers are not falling. Reference is made to tackling remand through the new Bail and Release Bill. The Scottish Government's Vision for Justice refers to establishing an Alternatives to Remand Reference Group and for it to meet 2022-23. It will report by the end of 2022.
<b>Estate</b> – incorporation of HMPs Greenock and Dumfries in SPS's 5-year investment plans	No	Recommendation not agreed to	
<b>In-cell telephony/technology</b> – further role out of suitable systems across the estate where appropriate	In part		The Scottish Government's Vision for Justice refers to improved digital infrastructure across the estate and wi-fi enabling in HMP Polmont. There will also be self-service KIOSK provision.

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			Work is currently underway to identify and procure an in cell telephony solution across the prison estate which will replace the mobile phone devices currently in use.
<b>Violence and serious organised crime groups</b> – detailed plans to tackle the issue and a reduction in the influence of such groups in prisons achieved	Yes		The Scottish Government published a revised SOC Strategy in February 2022: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/serious-organised-crime-strategy/pages/1_to_4.aspx">Serious Organised Crime strategy - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</a>
<b>Purposeful activity</b> – re-introduction of this to previous levels as we recover from the pandemic and consideration of the extension of appropriate elements of this activity to shorter term or remand prisoners	In part	<b>The Committee will keep the situation under review in order to ensure that there is a full role out of purposeful activities across all establishments in the prison estate</b>	<p><i>[Information provided by the SPS]</i></p> <p>SPS has gradually, and cautiously, lifted regime restrictions, in line with Scottish Government guidelines, that were necessary to protect the health and wellbeing of those who live and work in prisons. A 'Restoration of Services' project supported establishments to return to pre-pandemic regimes by the end of September 2021. However, measures remain in place to allow for regime changes where this is deemed necessary, for example, in an outbreak situation.</p> <p>Attendance for purposeful activity had reduced due to the necessity to maintain social distancing measures. It is anticipated that numbers will</p>

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			<p>increase further as SPS continues to manage its way out of the pandemic.</p> <p>SPS is also undertaking an Activity Profile review which seeks to understand the current purposeful activity delivered within the prison estate, the perceived outcomes and to consider what might constitute meaningful and effective activity in the future.</p>

**Misuse of drugs and the criminal justice system**

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<i>Short-term actions (within 6 to 12 months)</i>			
<b>Friday releases</b> - consideration needs to be given to changing legislation governing Friday releases	Yes		To be considered as part of new Bail and Release Bill. Section 6 of the Bill seeks to improve access to services for prisoners upon release. It does this by further restricting the days on which prisoners are released from custody – thereby bringing forward the release dates of affected prisoners
<b>Civil recovery</b> - further information and details on the work of the Civil Recovery Unit to determine what success it is having in seizing assets relative to the value of the sums of money that can be made by criminals	Yes	The Scottish Government has provided the information requested. The Committee will keep the situation under review and is seeking further information from the Scottish Government on the civil recovery unit.	
<b>Joint working</b> – hold a meeting with other committees (e.g. Health and Social Justice) to hear an update from the Chair of the Drugs Deaths Taskforce	Not applicable		Two joint evidence sessions were held in February 2022, with further meetings planned in summer/autumn 2022. A joint Chamber debate was held on 31 May 2022.



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<i>Long-term actions (within this parliamentary session)</i>			
<p><b>Drugs Taskforce recommendations</b> - faster progress being made on implementing the recommendations of the Taskforce</p>		<p><b>The Taskforce is to publish its final report in July 2022.</b></p>	<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>The Scottish Government has been working with partners to take forward the various recommendations from the Drug Deaths Taskforce (DDTF) as a matter of urgency and will continue to do so. The DDTF will be publishing its final report in summer 2022 which will summarise work done to date and will include all of the recommendations made by the group over its lifespan for Scottish Government and partners. Moving to implement these recommendations will be a priority for all parts of Scottish Government, particularly Drugs Policy and Justice departments.</p> <p>Police Scotland provided information on its independent review of the use of Naloxone. This is now being rolled out further. Police Scotland are piloting a referral service for vulnerable people on drugs. Police Scotland also involved in discussions with West Midlands</p>

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			Police about its diversion programme
<b>OPT and Naloxone</b> - same day access to Opiate Substitution Therapy alongside the provision of Take-Home Naloxone supply		<b>The Committee is seeking further information from the SFRS and the FBU about its pilot on the administering of Naloxone.</b>	<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>To ensure same-day access to OST and to ensure that long-acting buprenorphine (brand name Buvidal) is available as medication-assisted treatment option for all those for whom it would be appropriate, the Government has asked all local services to embed and implement new Medication Assisted Treatment standards. Same-day treatment is MAT standard 1 and having long-acting buprenorphine available as a choice is part of MAT standard 2.</p> <p>The continued provision of take-home naloxone remains a priority for the Scottish Government. This includes the areas that the</p>

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			<p>Committee have highlighted, such as the provision of THN following liberation from prison, which was one of the original targets of the naloxone programme, as well as post-hospital release and following a near-fatal overdose.</p> <p>Additional initiatives, such as the click-and-deliver service operated by Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs and the peer-to-peer initiative overseen by Scottish Drugs Forum, are also supported by the Scottish Government and are effective in furthering distribution of THN.</p> <p>The independent evaluation of the Police Scotland pilot has now been published (Naloxone In Police Scotland: Pilot evaluation (<a href="http://napier.ac.uk">napier.ac.uk</a>)) and the national roll-out of the initiative in the police is now underway. Similarly work is continuing with Scottish Ambulance Service and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.</p>



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<b>Trauma training</b> - further roll out of trauma-informed training across the criminal justice sector where this has not already been provided	Yes	<b>The Committee is seeking further information on the workforce framework</b>	<p>Reference made to priority that justice services are delivered in person-centred and trauma informed way. Roll out of new workforce framework for this, with draft by April 2022. Police Scotland has also initiated training in this area.</p> <p>The Scottish Government anticipate that the framework will be published in Autumn 2022.</p>
<b>Diversion funding</b> - consideration given to providing additional resources for local authority schemes aimed at diversion from prosecution and greater flexibility and understanding shown to the participants	In part. It is not clear if the funding referred to by the Scottish Government is additional.		<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>We currently invest over £119m of ring fenced funding in community justice services, which includes not only community sentences, but also other interventions such as bail supervision, structured deferred sentences, and diversion from prosecution. The bulk of this funding - around £108m – is distributed to local authorities for the delivery of justice social work services, allowing them to meet statutory responsibilities and to target local priorities aimed at reducing reoffending. The remainder comprises £11m of direct funding to</p>

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			<p>third sector organisations for the delivery of related services.</p> <p>If we are to succeed in shifting the balance towards a greater use of community-based sentences and other interventions, we need to ensure that the relevant services are available, consistent, and of high quality.</p> <p>Diversion from prosecution is part of the existing formula for JSW funding though there may be opportunities for individuals diverted to access a wider range of interventions, which may be funded by other sources.</p> <p>A Funding Review Group, comprising key stakeholders and delivery partners such as COSLA, Social Work Scotland, the Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum, and Community Justice Scotland, is considering – amongst other things – how approaches to JSW funding might be able to address concerns around consistency and availability, and help support the establishment and expansion of valuable services</p>

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			<p>across Scotland. Diversion is one aspect of this.</p> <p><i>[Information from COSLA – extract from a longer letter]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The additional funding provided by SG in 21-22 and 22-23 was welcome and acknowledged a need to support pandemic recovery and help alleviate pressures on capacity locally that will become increasingly more apparent as services will be dealing with the backlog resulting from the pandemic. However, there is an urgent need to address the barriers faced by local authorities when using this funding and to identify local resource requirements going forward, including in light of new and more ambitious asks on local authorities</li> <li>• multi-year investment funding is required to unlock a strategic response that meets the aims of the relevant strategies and outcomes. Resourcing on an annual basis inhibits effective service design, has negative</li> </ul>

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			<p>impacts on recruiting and retaining people with the skills needed to advance the community justice agenda – including the provision of diversion services - nor does it assist in strategic procurement activity which leads to stop-start service delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the time of writing, the Scottish Government Resource Spending Review has just been published. COSLA will be considering the document in more detail over coming weeks including its implications for community justice. However, our initial assessment is that the Review shows no prospect of an increase to Local Government's core funding for the next 3 years, which is especially concerning in the current context of soaring inflation. This "flat-cash" scenario gives extremely limited scope for recognising the essential work of our staff, too</li> <li>• Diversion from prosecution is one of a wider range of services aimed at encouraging a shift from custody and reduction in</li> </ul>

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			<p>offending behaviour. These services are set to be under considerable pressure, especially as a result of the backlog caused by the pandemic. There are also other demands, including around the provision of bail supervision and electronic monitoring, which place additional pressure on staff locally. Lastly, the introduction of upcoming legislation on bail and release from custody will also have resource implications for Local Government which will need to be fully scrutinised both during and after its passage in Parliament.</p>
<p><b>Alternatives to custody</b> - consideration given to a greater use of alternatives to custody, such as bail supervision and residential rehabilitation, with adequate funds in place for these to work</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>Whilst decisions on bail and sentencing are for the independent courts in each case, the Scottish Government is committed to ensuring credible alternatives to custody are available across Scotland. This year we have provided an additional £15m to support community justice services in recovering from the pandemic.</p>

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			This includes £3.2m to strengthen bail supervision services across all parts of Scotland and support the implementation of electronically monitored bail as a further alternative to remand. This support recognises that community-based alternatives to custody are effective in reducing offending and keeping our communities safe
<b>Pill presses</b> - regulation of pill presses	In part. It is unclear if further regulations will be brought forward		<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>The Scottish Government is aware that the National Crime Agency is leading work to gather intelligence on the nature and scale of the market in pill press machinery, working closely with Police Scotland and other enforcement partners. Based on the evidence they will then provide an assessment of the level of threat across the UK in order to inform the thinking on what more can be done to tackle the problem.</p> <p>The Scottish Government and Scottish Ministers continue to work with counterparts in the UK Government on this matter and will</p>

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			provide further updates when available
<b>DTTOs</b> - expansion of the use of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders	In part, it is unclear if further expansion of DTTOs will be taken forward		<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>DTTOs are an intensive disposal specifically targeted at individuals with entrenched problem drug use; chaotic lifestyles and a history of offending. They were introduced to combine justice and health approaches in a targeted way.</p> <p>The Scottish Government welcomes the Drug Death Taskforces consideration of DTTOs and we intend to carry out some initial exploratory work reviewing the evidence available and how they align with what is known about good practice in this area.</p> <p>Sentencing decisions in each individual case are, of course, a matter for the independent courts.</p>
<b>Safe consumption rooms</b> – provision of a detailed case proposing a pilot scheme and a means for evaluation	Yes. The Committee will await the further updates from the Scottish Government		<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>The details of a service proposal, in relation to a potential safer drug consumption facility in Glasgow,</p>

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			<p>intended to operate within the current legal framework, have been provided and are being examined as part of developing an approach to how any such facility would operate and be policed. There has been extensive multiagency involvement in the development of this proposal and that work is continuing.</p> <p>The Lord Advocate stated that a new proposal would need to be precise, detailed and specific and one which is underpinned by strong evidence. She also stated that it would require support from various partners, including Police Scotland who will be responsible for policing such a facility.</p> <p>Therefore, at this moment, detailed work and discussions are ongoing to introduce safer drug consumption facilities in Scotland. This work is delicate and highlights the challenges that involve bringing together Scottish Government policy commitments, the independent role of the Lord Advocate and the operational independent of the police.</p>



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			<p>The Minister for Drugs Policy announced on 23 June 2022 that a detailed service specification for a drugs consumption room in Glasgow is being considered by the Crown Office. Following that consideration, it will be referred to the Lord Advocate for consideration of any related statement of prosecution policy.</p>

**Violence against women and girls**

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<i>Short-term actions (within 6 to 12 months)</i>			
<p><b>Lady Dorrian's report</b> - the recommendations that were aimed at improving procedure, practice and culture should be progressed as a matter of urgency. Some of the areas where we would like to see faster progress include, but are not restricted to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved communication with complainers, including the provision of a single trauma-informed source of contact.</li> <li>• The expansion of advocacy support services.</li> <li>• Trauma-informed training implemented for all personnel who deal with traumatised and vulnerable people.</li> <li>• The provision of visual recording of police interviews with complainers in sexual offence cases and used as evidence in court.</li> <li>• The provision of evidence on commission to all complainers of sexual offences.</li> <li>• Ground Rules Hearings (GRHs).</li> <li>• Consideration of the right of complainers to independent legal representation.</li> <li>• Court measures adopted to ensure the comfort and safety of victims and witnesses.</li> <li>• Steps taken to enhance the quality of jury involvement.</li> </ul>	Yes		<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>The cross sector Governance Group has been established to consider the collective and individual recommendations from Lady Dorrian's review and is working with partners to obtain updates on progress that has already been made and to identify what more requires to be done.</p> <p>In addition to this, we are currently consulting on a number of the recommendations which would require legislation to implement: Improving Victims' Experience of the Justice System, which launched on 12th May. In response to the specific recommendations identified in the Committee's Action Plan, we can offer the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved communication with complainers</b> – Work is underway to revise the approach to communication across the criminal justice system, informed by a communications audit and</li> </ul>

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			<p>independent research with those affected by crime. The Victims' Taskforce is also progressing work to embed a more victim-centred approach within the justice system, including undertaking a modelling and scoping exercise to develop options for how this approach can be realised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The expansion of advocacy support services</b> – Our new Victim Centred Approach Fund will provide £18.4m over three years to eight nationwide specialist criminal justice advocacy services supporting victims of gender-based violence. This includes bolstered funding to Rape Crisis Scotland's National Advocacy Project with over £6m over the next three years allowing them to increase capacity.</li> <li>• <b>Trauma-informed training for all personnel who deal with traumatised and vulnerable people</b> – We are working with NHS Education Scotland and partners across the justice system to develop a knowledge and skills framework. This will embed trauma-informed practice for how the justice system interacts with complainers including trauma-informed training for court staff and the judiciary. We anticipate publication of the framework in Autumn 2022.</li> </ul>

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The provision of visual recording of police interviews with complainers in sexual offence cases and used as evidence in court</b> – The Visual Recorded Interview (VRI) Pilot continues to be delivered by partners and work is underway on a review of the pilot to inform implementation plans for scaling up of the VRI process. This is also currently the subject of public consultation where we are considering the requirement for any legislative underpinning to support the implementation of this recommendation</li> <li>• <b>The provision of evidence on commission to all complainers of sexual offences</b> – Preparation of the four dedicated evidence by commission suites (Glasgow, Inverness, Edinburgh and Aberdeen) is being led by SCTS who have advised that these should all be fully operational by the end of 2022/23.</li> <li>• <b>Ground Rules Hearings (GRHs)</b> - This is the subject of public consultation. GRHs are however, already undertaken where evidence is taken on commission from sexual offence complainers.</li> </ul>

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consideration of the right of complainers to independent legal representation</b> - This is the subject of public consultation. As outlined within the consultation, we are looking at the scope and operational requirements of any potential legislation necessary to progress this recommendation.</li> <li>• <b>Court measures adopted to ensure the comfort and safety of victims and witnesses</b> – The roll out of evidence by commission for vulnerable witnesses will largely eliminate the need for those who report sexual offences to attend court. Separate waiting areas and witness rooms are provided for prosecution and defence witnesses, SCTS are also undertaking a staged review of our designated waiting facilities and entrances/exits for witnesses, with a view to making improvements to these wherever possible.</li> <li>• <b>Steps taken to enhance the quality of jury involvement</b> – The Governance Group has established a cross sector short life working group to further explore this recommendation insofar as it relates to a pilot programme to tackle common rape myths, recognising that the implementation of</li> </ul>

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
			such a pilot would be a matter for the Judicial Institute.

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
	<p>Some information provided on progress to date by the Scottish Government including a reference to the creation of the Governance Group. The Scottish Government's Vision for Justice says that non legislative actions will be taken in 2022 with a consultation on legislative implications launched in Spring 2023. Police Scotland have provided additional information on their activities and progress. Police Scotland also provided additional information on its long term actions for tackling VAWG</p>		<p>Police Scotland's response refers to rollout of trauma training; upskilling of 730 SOLO officers; new training for probationary officers; an evaluation of the training; 2 year pilot of Visual Recording of Interviews; development of a VAWG strategy in Police Scotland etc. In terms of longer-term actions, Police Scotland highlighted an update on its Stalking and Harassment Standard Operating Procedure training from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust; update to reporting tools; internal awareness raising programme on stalking.</p>
<p><b>Co-ordination in government</b> - the Scottish Government should send an update on how it is co-ordinating measures across relevant portfolios to identify and address the causes of violence against women and girls</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>We have worked over many years to strengthen and modernise the justice system to improve the experience for women, and our Women's Justice Leadership Panel, chaired by the Minister for</p>

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
			<p>Community Safety, provides a further opportunity to look across the whole justice system, with a gendered lens, to better understand and address inequality and the needs of women. The panel recognises that elements of the justice system are designed around the needs of men or the needs of the system, rather than that of women and those who rely on them, who are often disproportionately affected. Changing that approach is very much at the heart of the panel's work.</p> <p>This work will build upon our transformational priorities set out within the Vision for Justice in Scotland, specifically seeking to further the aim of having an "... effective, modern person-centred and trauma-informed approaches to justice in which everyone can have trust, including as victims, those accused of crimes and as individuals in civil disputes". The panel first met in January, and will aim to:</p>



Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate that the experience of women in the justice system is different to men's; and</li> <li>• Promote consistent understanding of gendered issues within the justice system.</li> </ul> <p>It brings together key players across the justice system and utilises academic, professional, and third sector advice; creating an ideal forum to discuss several themes which impact women. These include (but not limited to) caring responsibilities, 'hidden sentences', victims/ offender blurred lines, data, and gaps between policy and practice. Further detail, including membership, can be accessed at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/news/womens-justice-leadership-panel/">https://www.gov.scot/news/womens-justice-leadership-panel/</a>.</p> <p>This work will promote the development of strategic outcomes which can guide and enhance the scope and uptake for gender competent policy making, and the design of justice policies which can go further for women and help achieve our Vision. This work will be crucial in furthering our</p>

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
			understanding of gender competency and cultural change. The panel will continue to meet until the end of the year and we are aiming to publish the panel's report, findings, and evidence early next year.
<b>Efforts to improve prosecution</b> - update from the Scottish Government, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service on the actions being taken to tackle the delays to prosecution of sexual offences and domestic abuse cases.	Yes	<p><b>The Scottish Government has provided the information requested. The Committee will keep the situation under review.</b></p> <p><b>In particular, the Committee will monitor the efforts to reduce the backlog in our courts (not just from the delays due to COVID but also pre-existing). The Committee regards this as a major priority where progress still needs to be made.</b></p>	<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>The backlog caused by the COVID pandemic has meant that cases are taking longer to conclude than before the pandemic and we know how difficult delays can be for victims and witnesses, particularly in cases involving sexual offences or domestic abuse. As part of the Recover, Renew, Transform Programme we have supported new ways of working to help the courts mitigate the impact of the backlog on victims and witnesses and we have provided funding for enhanced court capacity. We continue to work with justice partners to expand pre-recording of evidence which allows evidence to be captured at an earlier point in the process, before a case calls for trial. We are committed to improving victims' experiences of the</p>

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			justice system and the consultation we launched last month seeks views on a range of ways to empower and protect victims.
<b>Specialist courts</b> - view from the Scottish Government on whether a specialist sexual offences court, if one were to be established, could have unlimited sentencing powers and what legislative changes would be required	Yes	The Scottish Government has provided the information requested. The Committee will keep the situation under review and there are still a significant number of areas where the Committee needs further clarity (e.g. definition and the powers of specialised courts) and has some questions (e.g. the move to centralised marking hubs in COPFS).	<i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i>  Key aspects of the recommendation contained within the Lady Dorrian Review to establish a specialist sexual offences court have been included within our consultation Improving Victims' Experience of the Justice System, launched on 12 May. This includes the sentencing powers recommended within the Review which have been subject of debate since its publication. The Governance Group established to further progress consideration of the recommendations has also set up a short-life working group which includes representation from across the justice sector to further explore issues related to the creation of a specialist sexual offences court of

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			which sentencing powers is a key consideration. Any legislative proposals will be informed by the outcome of the consultation as well as the deliberations of the Governance Group.
<b>Not proven and judge-only trials -</b> confirmation from the Scottish Government on its plans to progress both of these issues and a timescale for doing so if it is going ahead.	Yes		Consultation closed on 11 March 2022, with an independent analysis and review to be published.
<b>Charging of fees for accessing court records in cases of rape or sexual offences</b> – setting up a system, perhaps starting with a pilot scheme – to remove the charging of fees for accessing court transcripts	To be confirmed	<b>The Committee is seeking the view of the Cabinet Secretary</b>	The Committee has considered a letter from the Lord President and is set to seek a response from the Cabinet Secretary now on the budget implications of setting up such a scheme, perhaps as a pilot.

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<i>Long-term actions (within this parliamentary session)</i>			
<p><b>Review of service standards</b> - review the implementation of the standards of service for victims and witnesses by Police Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service, the Scottish Prison Service and the Parole Board for Scotland. This is to determine whether these organisations are meeting their statutory obligations outlined in Section 2 of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014</p>	<p>Some information provided by Scottish Government and the Parole Board, but none by COPFS and SCTS.</p>		<p>Police Scotland's response refers to implementation of a new Stalking and Harassment SOP; training from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. The Scottish Government's Vision for Justice refers to a review of standards of services for victims and witnesses by October 2022.</p> <p>The Standards of Service in the Parole Board were reviewed and updated in March 2022, new standards were included in relation to the right of victims in some cases to request to attend a parole Tribunal as observers and the right to receive a decision summary.</p> <p>SPS has submitted its contribution for the Standards of Service Report for 2021-22. SPS reviewed the layout/information provided in previous contributions and updated the format. As previously advised SPS will participate in any review of the service standards</p>

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<p><b>Use of Moorov doctrine</b> - sheriffs and judges should ensure that juries understand the consequences of applying the doctrine and should explain to complainers why a jury and judge reached a particular outcome in these situations</p>	<p>No. The Crown Office did not agree with this recommendation</p>	<p>Recommendation not agreed to</p>	<p>COPFS said it would be undesirable for prosecutors to discuss hypothetical situations with complainers that may not in due course come to pass. Prosecutors would be willing to explain the legal basis on which it was assessed after the conclusion of the trial</p>
<p><b>Codes of practice</b> - Police Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service, and the Lord President, Lord Carloway, to provide details of how they address unacceptable behaviour and language and ensure that their workforces are meeting the needs of vulnerable and traumatised people. This should include: details of any codes of practice and ethics and how these are enforced; transparent complaints processes; and how recruitment processes have been adapted to attract a more diverse workforce that meets the culture, skills and principles of the organisations</p>	<p>Yes. Crown Office, Police Scotland and the SPA provided detailed information on this. Lord President/SCTS still to respond</p>		

**Victims' rights and victim support**

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<i>Short-term actions (within 6 to 12 months)</i>			
<b>VNS</b> - Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to review its administrative processes for those registering for the Victim Notification Scheme (VNS) as a matter of priority to avoid re-traumatising victims. This should include updating the registration process.	In part		COPFS explained it will contribute to the Scottish Government review of the VNS scheme. COPFS will also carry out a review of correspondence which it issues to victims and relevant persons to ensure it is trauma informed and properly explains the scheme
<b>VNS</b> - Scottish Prison Service to review how it manages the Victim Notification Scheme	Yes		<p><i>[Information provided by the SPS]</i></p> <p>SPS has advised Scottish Government (the policy owners of the VNS scheme) that it will participate in the 'Independent Review of the Victim Notification Scheme'.</p> <p>In addition, SPS is currently working with Scottish Government to review VNS letters issued by SPS to improve the communications victims receive.</p>

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<b>VNS</b> - update from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans on plans, and a timetable, for reforming the support provided to victims and a review of the Victim Notification Scheme	Yes		<p>Reference given to a review of VNS (from Spring 2022). Additionally, the Scottish Government's Vision for Justice refers to the ongoing work of the Victims Taskforce and a consultation on a Victims Commissioner in Spring 2022.</p> <p>The Cabinet Secretary has also provided a more detailed update on who advises victims in court cases and where they can go for advice on outcomes; see Paper 2 for the Committee's meeting of 22 June 2022.</p>
<b>Friday releases</b> - Scottish Prison Service to review its communication processes in the run up to a prisoner's release and its administrative process to ensure that victims are not informed on a Friday about a prisoner's release		<b>The Bill is now being scrutinised by the Committee</b>	<p>To be considered as part of the new Bail and Release Bill.</p> <p>As above, SPS is currently working with Scottish Government to review VNS letters issued by SPS to improve the communications victims receive.</p>
<b>Parole Board for Scotland</b> - update on the timetable for implementing the amendments to the Parole Board Rules and details of the work it is doing to improve Parole Scotland's communication with victims to ensure they understand the parole process	Yes	<b>The Parole Board has provided the information requested. The Committee will keep the situation under review as the Committee still has a number of issues which</b>	<p><i>[Information provided by the Parole Board]</i></p> <p>The amendments have been fully implemented. There was some delay in implementing Tribunal observations due to COVID 19 but observations commenced in April</p>



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		it believes still need to be resolved.	2022. The Board has recruited a Victims Team to improve victim's understanding of the parole process by providing support and guidance
<b>Vulnerable witnesses</b> – views from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service, Police Scotland and Social Work Scotland on how the scheme for vulnerable witnesses is working	In part	To be decided	Some information has been provided but it is not clear if COPFS believe the scheme is working or whether there are delays. Police Scotland referred to its work on VAWG (see other section of this Action Plan).
<b>Victim centred approach fund</b> - details from the Scottish Government on how this fund is helping the victims of crimes and their families	Yes		Some information provided and reference to further information on funding awards in the coming weeks. The Scottish Government's Vision for Justice refers to funding being allocated for projects in March 2022.

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<i>Long-term actions (within this parliamentary session)</i>			
<b>Barnahus</b> - update from the Scottish Government on its plans for the introduction of Barnahus facilities in Scotland and roll-out of these facilities, including incorporating the Joint Investigative Interview in its working	Yes		Reference made to rollout of a Barnahus (or Bairns Hoose as the SG refer to it) model in Scotland as part of the Scottish Government's new action plan. Some reference also made to JIIs. The Scottish Government's Vision for Justice refers to these being in place by 2025.

**Reducing youth offending, offering community justice solutions and alternatives to custody**

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<i>Short-term actions (within 6 to 12 months)</i>			
<b>Sentencing of young people</b> – update from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service of their plans to implement and monitor the sentencing guideline to ensure it is applied consistently, whilst maintaining judicial discretion.	No. Crown Office indicated this is a matter for the judiciary only		
<b>Sentencing guideline and judicial training</b> - details of the training and support that will be provided to prosecutors and sheriffs, and details of how outcomes, such as reducing reoffending rates, are to be captured	In part		Some information provided on training plans, but no detail on how outcomes, such as reducing reoffending rates, are to be captured
<b>Secure care</b> – progress update from the Scottish Government on the implementation and impact of the secure care pathway and standards	Yes		

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<b>Secure care</b> - update from the Scottish Government, COSLA and the secure care providers on changing the funding model	Yes. Awaiting information from COSLA		Reference is made to working with partners to provide future funding arrangements for secure care by 2023 with initial funding arrangements before summer 2022 for financial support for 4 placements.
<b>Secure care</b> - details of the timescale for the Scottish Government's plans to ensure that no child aged under 18 years of age is sent to HMP YOI Polmont and should instead be in secure care	Yes	<b>Further information is being sought from the Scottish Government</b>	<i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i>  Reducing, and then ending, the placement of children in YOIs is essential to Keeping the Promise and achieving the Scottish Government Youth Justice Vision published in June 2021. It is crucial that supervision, care and support happen in a trauma-informed way, which treats all under 18s as children first and addresses their needs as well as their behaviours. That is why respondents to the current Children's Care and Justice Bill consultation are being asked specific questions on whether a statutory prohibition on the use of YOIs for all children should be introduced, and on the potential role of secure care. The considerations will also extend to the appropriate use of secure care for placing young

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
			people who face serving a significant part of their sentence in YOI post-18. We are consulting on the best approach and listening to views, ahead of measures being introduced to Holyrood for full Parliamentary scrutiny. As well as legislative reform, resourcing, system and practice changes will also be needed to ensure the needs of all young people can be met
<b>Secure care</b> – confirmation from the Scottish Government whether data is collected which details the number of requests for secure care places each year and the number provided and, if so, if that data is publicly available	In part	<b>The Scottish Government has provided the information requested. However, it is not clear if they will now collect such data. The Committee will keep the situation under review</b>	<i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i>  The Scottish Government do not currently collate data relating to the number of requests for secure care places each year. We are considering a future minimum dataset for secure care, which would include this information

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<p><b>Deaths in custody</b> - formal and detailed response from the Scottish Government to all of the issues/recommendations in the Review report</p>	<p>In part. The Scottish Government said it has “no intention to create an online centralised system where delivery of the recommendations can be tracked.”</p>		<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>Gillian Imery, formerly HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, was appointed as an external Chair on 11 April 2022 to provide oversight and leadership to the implementation of all of the recommendations of the Independent Review. Since Gillian’s appointment she has met two of the co-authors of the Independent Review to gain deeper insight into their findings and recommendations. She has been engaged in introductory meetings with a number of key stakeholders including representatives from Scottish Prison Service and NHS and is shortly due to meet with representatives from Police Scotland, Care Inspectorate, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and Public Health Scotland. Gillian has established a Deaths in Prison Custody Action Group, comprising representatives from all of the relevant agencies involved in improving the response to all deaths in prison custody. This group will oversee and drive forward the</p>

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
			<p>programme of work necessary to make the suggested improvements and meet the recommendations. The first meeting of this group is due to take place in June. Further, a working group with relevant stakeholders has been set up by Scottish Government to focus on the key recommendation of the Independent Review. That group has started to consider the form that the new inquiry process may take, how that would interact with existing processes and which body may be suited to take on this function. This group will continue to meet regularly.</p> <p>There is no intention to create an online centralised system where delivery of the recommendations can be tracked.</p>
<i>Long-term actions (within this parliamentary session)</i>			
<b>Deaths in custody</b> - creation of an online centralised, transparent system that would allow the public to follow delivery of the recommendations	No	Recommendation not agreed to	<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>There is no intention to create an online centralised system where delivery of the recommendations can be tracked</p>

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<p><b>Deaths post-custody</b> – view from the Scottish Government whether it will commission a review of the post-release deaths of those who were previously in custody and, whilst undertaking non-custodial sentences and diversion schemes</p>	No	Recommendation not agreed to	<p><i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i></p> <p>A serious incident review (SIR) should always be carried out when a person on a statutory order or licence has died or been seriously injured in circumstances which indicate the need for public assurance. The Care Inspectorate already have an overview of those and they published their most recent report on SIRs on Wednesday 1 June. In addition the Scottish Government are approaching COPFS Fatalities Unit to understand if there are any improvements that can be made to processes for preventing deaths of those post release or on community orders. In light of those existing processes and actions, there are at present no plans to commission a further review of post-release deaths of those previously in custody and of those undertaking non-custodial sentences and diversion schemes.</p>



Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<b>Legislative review</b> - Scottish Government review of the relevant provisions in Part V of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 with regard to a court's powers to place a child in secure accommodation where appropriate	No information provided	To be decided	

**Legal Aid**

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<i>Short-term actions (within 6 to 12 months)</i>			
<b>Information from the Scottish Government</b> - nature of the proposed engagement with the legal profession and users of legal aid; its timescales; its purpose; and whether a general consultation is planned; whether the Scottish Government has in mind any specific reform proposals on which is it consulting and whether will it publish these; and the planned timescale for introducing the legal aid reform bill	In part		Some of this information has been provided in the Scottish Government's response to the report. No firm date for the Bill and more clarity needed on short-term measures that may be taken.
<b>Methodology for setting fee rates</b> - Minister for Community Safety to provide further information on when the research on fee-related issues commissioned following the report of the Legal Aid Payment Advisory Panel is due to be completed. The Committee also requires details on when the Scottish Government anticipates that revisions to the current fee regime are likely to be implemented	No information provided	Further information is being sought from the Scottish Government	

Key issue	Did the Scottish Government (or others where relevant) agree to the recommendation?	Progress against delivery	Notes and additional information
<b>Fee rates</b> - immediate action on fee rates	In part		Recent SSI did introduced increase in fees. Some parties may wish to see more substantive increases.
<i>Long-term actions (within this parliamentary session)</i>			
<b>PDSO</b> – review of the role for the Public Defence Solicitors Office (PDSO), assessment of the effectiveness of it, including asking users, and also to explore what additional roles the PDSO can play	No	Recommendation not agreed to	<i>[Information provided by the Scottish Government]</i>  The Scottish Government does not propose to undertake a specific review of the PDSO, however we have requested that PDSO develop and forward suggestions toward its future development, including expansion of work. We will review these suggestions and will inform the Criminal Justice Committee, within 3 months, of the approach approved by the Minister for Community Safety for taking forward the work of the PDSO.
<b>Legislation</b> – introduction of a Bill to reform legal aid	Yes		Clarity on date of introduction is needed. Current information refers only to between 2023 and 2026