



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Criminal Justice Committee

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament

14 November 2024

Dear Kenneth

National Outcomes

The Criminal Justice Committee met yesterday to consider the revisions to the national outcomes proposed by the Scottish Government. I know this matter is being considered by your committee and you have encouraged all other relevant committees to consider the national outcomes that fall within their remits.

There are to be two national outcomes within our remit, as follows:

- *Communities Outcome* – We live in communities that are connected, inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe. Some of the relevant measures of progress relate to crime victimisation, specifically the proportion of adults who have been the victim of one or more crimes in the past year, and the perceptions of local crime rate, specifically the percentage of respondents who think crime in their area has stayed the same or reduced in the past two years
- *Human Rights and Equality Outcome* – We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination. Some of the relevant measures of progress are access to justice, specifically the proportion of adults who are confident that the Scottish Criminal Justice System, as a whole, makes sure everyone has access to the justice system.

The Committee noted these proposals.

In relation to access to justice, however, we noted that the the Scottish Government says that the data in respect to this indicator is “Maintaining progress”. Several members highlighted the issues with the provision of legal aid for criminal justice cases and the comments that have been made from the legal sector about their ability to continue to provide services to clients.

Contact: Criminal Justice Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email justice.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

This has included some recent announcements from high profile lawyers that they will no longer be providing such services.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey N: CN". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrey Nicoll MSP
Convener