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Convener
Criminal Justice Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email: justice.committee@parliament.scot

26 February 2026

Dear Convener,

I am writing to advise that the Scottish Government has today [published a consultation](#) on a number of areas to help improve protection within the justice system for women and girls. This is an issue that the Scottish Government is strongly committed to, considering review of the criminal law and also non-legislative approaches such as awareness raising, prevention and improved data collection.

One of the areas which the consultation discusses is non-fatal strangulation, which I know is an area of significant interest for Committee members and other MSPs. In line with the Programme for Government commitment, the consultation provides an analysis of the law on non-fatal strangulation in Scotland. In explaining how current Scots law operates, the consultation confirms that consent is not a feature of Scots law which is one of the ways in which significant protection is afforded to victims. Consultees are able to consider the information provided and offer views on steps that could be taken to help reduce harm arising from non-fatal strangulation.

The consultation also covers the following areas: spiking, protective orders for those at risk of harassment, offences committed against pregnant women and online and technology-facilitated harm.

The consultation runs until June and the views offered will be for the next administration to consider in terms of next steps on any of the specific areas.

A copy of this letter is sent to Jackson Carlaw MSP, Convener of the Citizen Participation and Public Petition Committee.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



ANGELA CONSTANCE

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