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19 January 2026

Dear Stuart

I am writing to you in your capacity as Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, to highlight the recent publication of [A Scottish Government Consultation on Family Law](#), which was launched on 29 December 2025 and will be of interest to your members.

The consultation seeks views on the following (summarised) aspects of family law.

- Whether we should legislate to raise the minimum age of marriage and civil partnership;
- Improving cohabitants financial rights under the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006;
- Introducing qualifying requirements for religious and belief bodies with celebrants who solemnise marriage and register civil partnerships; and
- Extending the simplified divorce and dissolution procedures to cases where there are children under 16 and there's no dispute about their welfare.

Your Committee will have a particular interest in the Scottish Law Commission recommendations, as per their 2022 Report on Cohabitation, which have been included in the consultation. These include potential reforms of cohabitants' financial rights on separation and also on the reform of cohabitants' rights where their cohabiting partner dies without leaving a will.

The consultation will close on 21 April 2026 during the pre-election period and next steps will then be for the next Government and Parliament.

I trust this information is helpful to the Committee and am happy to provide any additional information if required.

Yours sincerely



SIOBHIAN BROWN