



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Siobhian Brown MSP
Minister for Victims and Community
Safety

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice
Committee
T2.60

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Via email only

EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot

6 October 2023

Dear Minister,

Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill

At its meeting on Tuesday 3 October the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee considered your [letter of 27 September](#) in which you indicated your intention to bring forward amendments to the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill at stage 2.

The Committee notes the Scottish Government's commitment to working collaboratively with all interested parties, including the legal sector and those representing the consumer interest.

We further note that your intention to bring forward amendments at stage 2 has been informed by discussions you have had with stakeholders, including the senior judiciary, with regard to their concerns about provisions in the Bill which they consider could impinge upon the independence of the legal profession.

The Committee began oral evidence sessions on Tuesday 3 October. These sessions will resume in November and will include sessions with the legal sector and the senior judiciary.

The Committee agreed that, in advance of these sessions, it would be helpful to better understand the detail of any changes likely to come forward at stage 2, to avoid any potential of future evidence sessions covering content and provisions of the Bill that might ultimately not apply.

As such, we would be grateful if you could advise, as far as you are able:

- How far into the development of amendments is the Scottish Government?
- What is the detail and potential effect of such amendments?
- Will the Scottish Government continue to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, including the senior judiciary, on such intended amendments?
- Other than those sections identified in the footnote to your letter, are there any other provisions the Scottish Government is considering changing?

The Committee would welcome a response in writing ideally by no later than Tuesday 31 October, with a view to informing its future evidence sessions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Chapman".

Maggie Chapman
Deputy Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee