



The Rt Hon Lord Carloway
Lord President

Parliament House
Edinburgh, EH1 1RQ

8 September 2023

Ms Kaukab Stewart *MSF*
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Convenor,

**REGULATION OF LEGAL SERVICES (SCOTLAND) BILL – STAGE 1
EVIDENCE SESSIONS**

I am writing to you in your capacity as Convenor of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee.

As you will be aware from the senior judiciary's response to the call for views on the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill, the senior judiciary have significant, and unanimous, concerns with the Bill, as it is currently framed. The response of the senators speaks for itself. I do not repeat all of the concerns here.

In light of the significance of our concerns, if the committee would find it helpful to assist it in its scrutiny of the Bill, I would be happy for the Lord Justice Clerk (Lady Dorrian) and Lord Erich to attend and give evidence at Stage 1.

In light of the principle of the separation of powers, members of the senior judiciary rarely comment on government policy or attend Parliament to give evidence. This Bill is an exceptional case. The Lord President, and the Court of Session, are the ultimate regulators of the legal profession. The senior judiciary have a significant policy interest in this legislation. My offer underlines the strength of the concerns which the senior judiciary have.

If the committee would like to take up this offer, I would be grateful if our officials could liaise so that appropriate arrangements can be put in place.

Separately, I look forward to meeting you on 27 September to discuss civil justice matters more generally.

Yours sincerely
