



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Siobhian Brown MSP  
Minister for Victims and Community  
Safety

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice  
Committee  
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Edinburgh  
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*Via email only*

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21 March 2024

Dear Minister,

### **Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill – Stage 2 consideration**

Thank you for your letter dated 11 March 2024 and for your kind words on my appointment as Convener.

The Committee is grateful for the Minister's prompt consideration of its letter and discussed its contents at its meeting on 12 March.

Members noted the Minister's view that options 1 and 2 set out on the letter could create uncertainty for both Parliament and stakeholders on the progress of the Bill. Consequently, the Committee agreed that it would be helpful to set down a deadline for conclusion of stage 2 proceedings.

However, the Committee considered that the deadline should factor in some additional time to consider ongoing work between the Scottish Government and the senior judiciary to resolve the issues on which the judges have raised concerns.

The Clerks are liaising on our behalf with your officials on the progress of the discussions with the senior judiciary and to agree the most suitable deadline for Stage 2 to propose to the Bureau.

Accordingly, and in liaison with Clerks and the Parliamentary legislation team, a proposal for a deadline date for conclusion of stage 2 will be taken to Bureau for its consideration in due course, with a view to Parliament agreeing the deadline ahead of Easter recess.

Clerks to the Committee will continue to liaise with external stakeholders for updates. Notwithstanding this, the Committee agreed that it would be helpful to receive a further detailed update from the Minister on the progress of finalising amendments. Once a lodging date has been agreed, the Committee would also welcome early sight of amendments, where practical, to assist it in its approach to stage 2 scrutiny.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Karen Adam MSP  
Convener  
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee