

Karen Adams MSP
Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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By Email: ehrcj.committee@parliament.scot

Dear Convener

Civil Legal Aid Inquiry Report

I write to thank you and members of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice (EHRCJ) committee for your diligent undertaking during the inquiry into legal aid, leading to the publication of the [Civil Legal Assistance in Scotland Report](#) on 17 September 2025.

As clearly indicated in the Committee's findings, legal aid is a key component for access to justice, but for too long it has been in a state of decline without sufficient Government support and focus. We therefore welcome the wide-reaching scope of the inquiry, the Committee's findings and conclusions, and pragmatic recommendations.

There are a number of recommendations for the Scottish Government - as well as for sectoral bodies, including the Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB) and the Society - which, if taken forward, will make a significant and positive difference to the system.

Needless to say, we stand ready to work with all delivery partners to ensure legal aid is restored as a viable and sustainable channel for access for justice in Scotland in the immediacy, and in the future.



Thank you again to you and the committee for your help and support on such a critical component of our justice system.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Thom
President