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Karen Adam MSP
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Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice
Committee

By email: EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot

26 June 2025

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 June 2025. I was pleased to give evidence to the Committee on the 6 May on the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and its implementation in Scotland, following a UN interactive dialogue held in Geneva in February of this year. I very much welcomed this opportunity to set out the Scottish Government's approach to progressing human rights and will continue to support your further scrutiny in this space.

You have requested further information regarding the Scottish Government's response to the ICESCR's recommendations and our approach to implementing the recommendations in devolved areas, and I will respond to that letter by your requested September 2025 deadline.

In the meantime, I wanted to come back to you regarding questions raised during the Committee session. Pam Gosal MSP asked for further clarity relating to the Sullivan Review recommendation to review our guidance on data collection of children's gender markers in NHS records. There has been no recorded instances of a child's NHS CHI records being changed to reflect a change in gender, only changes to correct errors made in the original recording. In terms of timings for reviewing our guidance on collecting data on sex and gender, we have previously committed to doing so by the end of 2026 as part of the Non-Binary Equality Action Plan.

Yours sincerely,

KAUKAB STEWART

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