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The Scottish Parliament
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Our ref: A54661919

02 December 2025

Dear Convener,

REGULATION OF CHILD CONTACT SERVICES – SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Thank you for your email on 5 November 2025 notifying me that the Committee's report on the affirmative legislation relating to the regulation of child contact services had been published. I signed the SSIs on 19 November, following approval by Parliament on 12 November.

As was noted during the evidence session on 4 November there will be an 18 month lead-in period before regulation fully comes into force on 1 April 2027. This will give the Care Inspectorate the necessary time to carry out preparatory work that is needed ahead of regulation.

I note paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Committee's report regarding consultation with a wider range of stakeholders. I am writing to acknowledge the Committee's request to keep the Parliament informed of work on this during the lead-in period.

Part of the work the Care Inspectorate will undertake during this period will be the development of a Quality Improvement Framework for child contact services. The development process will involve the Care Inspectorate consulting with stakeholders. We will discuss with the Care Inspectorate the need to consult a diverse range of stakeholders, including those supporting Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, in particular domestic abuse organisations, and those representing British Sign Language users.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

The Scottish Government will also keep Parliament informed during the lead-in period.

Yours sincerely,

SIOBHIAN BROWN

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