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By email to:  
FPA.committee@parliament.scot

DX: ED 545309

20 June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Cost effectiveness of public inquiries – Written Submission**

Thank you for the invitation to attend a meeting of the committee.

The SCTS, given its function to provide efficient and effective administration to the courts and tribunals in Scotland, considers that there is a limited amount of information that it can provide to the Committee to assist in its consideration of the general principles of this inquiry. Therefore, if it is acceptable to the Convenor, we would offer the following written submission, which does not include the views of the judiciary, in lieu of attendance at the Committee session. We are content that this submission be presented as evidence to the Committee.

We are aware that concerns have been raised during evidence sessions about judicial members being involved in lengthy inquiries. Our understanding is that where judicial members are appointed to inquiries backfill funding is provided to cover the judicial vacancy. By way of example, we would draw the Committee's attention to the Maximum Number of Judges (Scotland) Order 2022, and its accompanying policy note<sup>1</sup>.

As mentioned in our opening paragraph, the SCTS has a statutory purpose as established in the Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008. We provide administrative support to the Scottish courts, devolved tribunals and the Office of the Public Guardian and their judiciary. As such we have no expertise on running public inquiries. We therefore have no further comments to make. Any changes in the running of public inquiries would be a matter of policy, which the SCTS would not comment on.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Maximum Number of Judges \(Scotland\) Order 2022](#) and policy note: [The Maximum Number of Judges \(Scotland\) Order 2022](#)

We would be grateful if we could be kept informed on any further developments.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Grant  
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