Justice Committee

Scottish Government’s Draft Budget 2013-14

Written submission from The Robertson Trust

1. The Robertson Trust

1.1 The Robertson Trust is the largest independent grant-making Trust in Scotland. Every year the Trust funds a wide range of charitable projects across Scotland with our priority areas including Care, Health, Education and Training and Community Art and Sport. We aim to help those most in need and to improve life for as many people as possible. In 2011/12 the Trust awarded £14.6m to recognised charities throughout the country.

1.2 The Trust also proactively works in a number of Development areas: Community Sport, Criminal Justice and Alcohol Misuse. Development awards are preceded by research to identify where the Trust can have the greatest potential impact in an area of Scottish life where a gap in service provision exists. Through these awards we aim to make a sufficient investment over an extended period of time to enable independent evaluation to identify elements of good practice in a project. We then use the learning from these projects to help inform local and national policy and shape future service delivery.

2. The Financing of the Commission on Women Offenders findings

2.1 The Robertson Trust welcomes the Commission on Women Offenders findings and the resources that the Scottish Government has allocated towards financing them in the draft budget.

2.2 In addition to the funding outlined in the draft budget, independent funders such as The Robertson Trust offer additional financial resources to help address the needs of women offenders. The Robertson Trust currently funds a range of third sector organisations across Scotland that provide support for women offenders and their families and we will continue to invest in these interventions the in the coming years. Additionally, we are currently in discussions with a number of Trusts and Foundations across the UK who have indicated they would be interested in investing in the women’s justice centres that the Scottish Government has pledged to setup. In the coming months, we plan to meet with the Criminal Justice and Early Years Departments in the Scottish Government to discuss how best to take this forward.

The Robertson Trust
18 October 2012