



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Bill Kidd MSP
Convener
Standards, Procedures and Public
Appointments Committee

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Dear Convener,

I understand that the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments (SPPA) Committee will be considering the Scottish Elections (Franchise and Representation) Bill, and that the Bill contains provisions extending the franchise for Scottish elections to convicted prisoners serving sentences of 12 months or less.

The Equalities and Human Rights Committee has previously considered the topic of prisoner voting, taking evidence in September 2017 and January 2018, and [publishing a report](#) in May 2018. The Committee wishes to draw your attention to the Report and hopes the Committee's deliberations on the relevant human rights considerations are of use to the SPPA Committee in its scrutiny.

The Committee would be interested in hearing how the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee intends to consider human rights in its scrutiny of this Bill, particularly in relation to prisoner voting. The Committee has indicated it may wish to reflect further on whether it wishes to undertake any specific work in relation to the Bill on this specific area.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Maguire
Convener
Equalities and Human Rights Committee