

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Ms Christina McKelvie MSP
Convener
Equalities and Human Rights Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Via email at
equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot

1st December 2016

Dear Christina

Thank you for your letter of 16 November to the Lord Advocate in relation to the Committee's evidence session on 3 November. As Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, I will respond to your request for views.

I understand the Committee session on 3 November raised a number of important issues. I am also aware that you have written separately to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities on other matters arising from this session, who will also respond in due course.

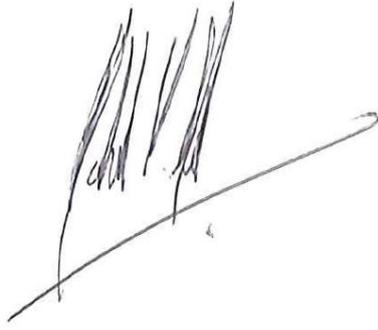
The result of the EU referendum clearly has important potential consequences for Scots law, not least in the field of human rights and equality. Consideration of the impact on Scots law is a key element of the Scottish Government's work on the options for Scotland's future relationship with the EU and the rest of the UK following the EU referendum.

In the wake of the recent English High Court judgment on the triggering of Article 50, the issues about the need for legislative consent motions and the Great Repeal Bill is something that I am constrained in commenting on given the Lord Advocate's intervention which the Supreme Court has allowed. The Lord Advocate's submission to the court was lodged on Friday and is available on the Scottish Government website:

http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00510602.pdf?utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn&utm_source=Twitter

We are considering all possible options to ensure Scotland's continuing relationship with the EU, and we will seek to use whatever influence we have to protect Scotland's interests and shape the UK position

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several vertical strokes followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

MICHAEL RUSSELL