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Dear Christina

ELECTORAL REFORM IN SCOTLAND – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

As you know from our previous correspondence, the Scottish Government undertook to consult on the electoral reforms, for Local Government and Scottish Parliament elections in Scotland, which Scottish citizens may wish to see taken forward in the future.

We are pleased to advise that we have now launched this public consultation. We hope to elicit views on a number of issues related to Local Government and Scottish Parliament elections, including: how often these elections should be held; who runs these elections and how they are run; who can register and vote; and the accessibility of voting and elected office.

The work that the Equalities and Human Rights Committee is taking forward on prisoner voting is acknowledged in the consultation document in the section which focuses on proposals to extend the franchise. I have followed the evidence gathering you have undertaken with interest. I look forward to reading the Committee's conclusions in due course.

The consultation will run for 12 weeks, until 12 March 2018, and can be accessed through the following link: <https://consult.gov.scot/elections/electoral-reform>.

Yours sincerely



Joe Fitzpatrick MSP