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Ms Christina McKelvie MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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Our ref: 2017/0034985
11 October 2017

Dear Christina,

Thank you for your letter of 22 September 2017, concerning the Equalities and Human Rights Committee's consideration of prisoner voting.

I welcome the Committee's consideration of this important issue and note your intention to gather further evidence.

You asked about the Government's consultation exercise on electoral reform, including whether this would cover prisoner voting.

I hope to be able to make an announcement about the consultation soon. The scope of the exercise is likely to be reasonably broad covering a range of measures to improve the running of elections and aspects of the new powers devolved in the Scotland Act 2016. Given the Committee's on-going consideration of the matter the consultation will not cover prisoner voting.

I look forward to the conclusions from your further evidence gathering and to continuing to work with the Committee on this important issue.

Yours for Scotland,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe FitzPatrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOE FITZPATRICK