14 October 2019

Dear Convener

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (PROTECTION AND GUIDANCE) (SCOTLAND) BILL: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT VIEW ON PROTECTED SUBJECT-MATTER

I write with regard to the Presiding Officer's statutory duty under section 31(2A) of the Scotland Act 1998 (as amended) to decide, whether any provision in a Bill relates to a protected subject-matter.

The Scottish Government considers that, upon introduction, the Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill does not contain provision that relates to protected-subject matter as defined by section 31(5) of the Scotland Act 1998 (as amended).

I am copying this letter to the Lord Advocate, and to the Minister for Older People and Equalities.

GRAEME DEY