

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

Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convener
Justice Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

19 March 2018

Dear Convener,

SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION REPORT ON DEFAMATION

Thank you for your letter of 22 February to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson MSP seeking an update on behalf of the Justice Committee on the Scottish Government's proposed response to the Scottish Law Commission's report on Defamation. It has been passed to me to reply as I have responsibility for the law in this area.

We welcomed publication of the Scottish Law Commission Report and draft Bill in December last year and are currently considering the terms of the Report. At this point it is too early to have reached a concluded response on this important subject.

Any plans to bring forward legislation in this area will of course need to be carefully considered in the context of the overall legislative programme for the Scottish Government. Once we have reached a firmer position I would be pleased to provide a further update to the Justice Committee in due course

ANNABELLE EWING

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

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