



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Michael Matheson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Scottish Government

**Local Government and Communities
Committee**

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Dear Cabinet Secretary

On 14 September 2017 I met with representatives of Alcohol Focus Scotland (AFS) to discuss their work. During that discussion AFS highlighted their concerns regarding the transparency, accountability and public participation of the current licensing system. AFS explained that there may be opportunities to improve the operation of Alcohol Licensing Forums and licensing boards through the current updating of licensing guidance.

Given this the Committee would welcome confirmation from you of when the current updating of licensing guidance is expected to be completed and the extent to which the updating of licensing guidance will include reviewing the operation of local licensing forums.

I would be grateful if we could receive a response by 17 November but should you or your officials have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact Jane Williams, Clerk to the Committee whose contact details are set out above.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Doris MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee