Dear Presiding Officer

Commission on Parliamentary Reform recommendation 24

I am writing to you in relation to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee’s consideration of Recommendation 24 of the Commission on Parliamentary Reform which states, “A systematic review of Standing Orders should be undertaken to ensure that it is diversity sensitive and inclusive to facilitate equal and effective participation by MSPs in all business.”

The Committee discussed this recommendation and agreed that it was important that there should be specific provision to ensure that Members with childcare responsibilities, particularly nursing mothers, were able to participate in Chamber business. I would therefore be grateful if you would give consideration to Members being allowed to breastfeed in the Chamber should the need arise. In addition, the Committee considered it important that there should be sufficient flexibility in the arrangements for caring for children in the Parliament’s crèche so that Members could use the crèche, if necessary, to facilitate their participation in parliamentary business.

Yours sincerely

Bill Kidd MSP
Convener
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee