



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

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Dear Siobhian,

Scottish Law Commission Bills

Given the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee's role in scrutinising many Scottish Law Commission (SLC) Bills, you copied the Committee into a letter you sent to Lady Paton on 5 September 2023 updating her on Scottish Government work in this area.

At that time, you stated: "my officials will begin detailed work on three further SLC reports. These are the Report on An Improved Scheme for Financial Provision on Cohabitation Breakdown (2022), the Report on Aspects of Leases: Termination (2022) and the Report on Review of Contract Law (2018)."

Subsequently, in response to a Government-initiated question [S6W-23651](#), the Scottish Government committed to consulting on a "substantial range of issues by summer 2024", including "the Scottish Law Commission's draft Bill to reform the law on a cohabitant's financial rights against their former partner when they separate."

The Committee now seeks an update on the work on the other two SLC Reports, cognisant of the fact that, given the potential breadth of issues covered in the consultation including the cohabitation report, that one may be less likely to be deemed a "Scottish Law Commission Bill" under Standing Order 9.17A of the Scottish Parliament.

The Committee values its role in scrutinising SLC Bills. It sees the mechanism provided by this Standing Order rule as a good opportunity to implement measures which are not substantially controversial and which seek to improve, simplify and update the law of Scotland so it keeps pace with the ways we live and work.

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The Committee would encourage the Scottish Government to make sure it seeks to bring forward Bills which it considers may be suitable for consideration by the Committee under this route.

I am taking the opportunity to send a copy of this letter to Lady Paton, Chair of the Scottish Law Commission.

Yours sincerely

Stuart McMillan MSP

Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

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