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Claire Baker MSP
Convener, Economy and Fair Work Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

14 September 2023

Dear Convener,

General Review of Debt Solutions

As you know, the Scottish Government has been working with the Accountant in Bankruptcy to deliver on our commitment to take forward a general review of Scotland's debt solutions.

It was agreed at the outset that the most effective approach would be to approach this wider review in three consecutive stages. The first stage, which focused on immediate priorities to be taken forward in the fifth Parliamentary session to help address short-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in the set of changes delivered through the Bankruptcy (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2021. The second stage, which was progressed through stakeholder-led working groups and which linked with a separate stakeholder-led review of diligence, produced recommendations which have been subject to general consultation and which inform the changes that we are progressing through the current Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Bill and the broader improvement agenda outlined in my letter of 4 September.

I am writing now to advise you that I am initiating the third stage of the wider review, which will involve a longer term, strategic examination of existing solutions and explore the extent to which they meet the needs of a modern economy. I am sure you will be pleased to know that Yvonne MacDermid OBE has agreed to lead this work. As you will be aware, Yvonne was for many years Chief Executive at Money Advice Scotland and has an enviable reputation for her knowledge, experience and commitment in this area. I am confident that she will take an informed and independent approach to tackling relevant issues, looking at diligence as well as debt solutions, and that her eventual report will lay firm foundations for further action.

Yours sincerely



TOM ARTHUR MSP

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