

Audrey Nicoll MSP
Convener
Criminal Justice Committee
Scottish Parliament

Justice.committee@parliament.scot

Cc ecyp.committee@parliament.scot;
Ehrcj.committee@parliament.scot

9 July 2024

Dear Convener,

Media Reporting On Child Homicide Victims: A Consultation On The Issues

As you are aware, concerns have been raised by families bereaved by crime about the traumatic impact of ongoing press and social media coverage of the death of their loved one; in particular, where that loved one, tragically, was a child. I committed to publishing a public consultation on this issue during the passage of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill following engagement with bereaved families and hosting a roundtable involving victims organisations, media representatives and others.

I am very grateful to all those who have shared their views with us so far, bereaved families in particular. It is clear from those conversations that this subject engages a range of complex issues. It is also clear that this is not an issue on which decisions can, or should, be made without a fuller understanding of the consequences - intended and unintended - of any change in policy or legislation.

I am therefore pleased to inform you that a consultation regarding media reporting on child homicide victims was published today and will be open for responses until 1 October 2024. It is available at [consultation on media reporting of child homicide victims](#).

Through this consultation we seek to develop a shared understanding of the issues by drawing together views so that next steps can be informed by a wide range of insights and experiences. This will ensure that any decision we make on our approach to this issue is robust, evidence-based, and ultimately the right approach for the people of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

ANGELA CONSTANCE