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Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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24 March 2023

Dear Joe,

Publication of Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025

I am writing to inform you of the publication of [Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025](#) on Friday 24th March 2023.

The strategy, covering the years 2023 to 2025, presents a refreshed vision for equality evidence improvement and a comprehensive three-year programme of work to strengthen Scotland's equality evidence base across all ministerial portfolios of the Scottish Government and National Records of Scotland (NRS). A stronger and more complete equality evidence base will support the collective effort across the Scottish public sector to fulfil the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 builds on our ambitious and wide-ranging [Equality Data Improvement Programme \(EDIP\)](#), which launched in April 2021. Through the EDIP, we worked closely with partner organisations to undertake a range of actions to share good practice and make improvements to priority datasets. The first phase of the EDIP helped raise awareness across the public sector of the value of intersectional equality data and how it can be used to improve policymaking and outcomes. It also allowed public bodies to input their views of how we can best support the data element of the further roll-out of mainstreaming work in the public sector.

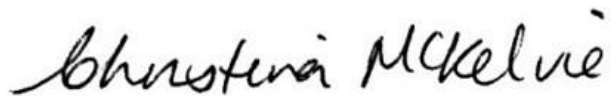
The Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-2025 was developed with the views and experiences of a range of stakeholders at its heart. The Scottish Government carried out a [public consultation](#) between July and October 2022 to gather views on the vision and a number of draft actions for inclusion in the strategy. The consultation also informed our understanding of the opportunities and challenges in collecting and using equality evidence across a range of data users. We received a total of 116 responses to the consultation, of these 87 were from organisations working on a range of equality issues.

In addition to the public consultation, the Scottish Government also carried out a series of stakeholder engagement events to further understand what practical steps it can take to address the barriers to collecting, analysing and using equality evidence. These events were attended by over 200 representatives from a range of equalities/advocacy groups and public sector organisations.

To ensure we continue to learn from and share good practice across the public sector, the strategy will be governed by the project board that we established at the commencement of the EDIP. The project board is co-chaired by the Scottish Government's Chief Statistician and Chief Social Researcher and includes representatives from a range of external public sector bodies with a key interest in mainstreaming equalities, including COSLA, Public Health Scotland, Improvement Service, NDPB Equality Forum, and the Scottish Council's Equality Network.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee over the lifespan of Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy to realise our vision for a more accessible, wide-ranging and robust equality evidence base that will enable the development and delivery of sound, inclusive policies and services and enable the measurement of improvements in the lives of all of Scotland's people.

Yours sincerely,



CHRISTINA MCKELVIE