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Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice

Committee

The Scottish Parliament

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14 January 2025

Dear Karen

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (PROTECTION AND GUIDANCE) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2020; THE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT 2020: AND THE DOMESTIC ABUSE PROTECTION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2021

I am grateful for the opportunity to give evidence to the Committee on 10 December on the implementation of these three Acts.

In relation to the Children (Scotland) Act 2020, we intend to lay SSIs in the summer to put the Care Inspectorate in place as the regulator of child contact centres. We also intend to lay commencement regulations in the summer to commence further provisions of the 2020 Act. In addition we will have further meetings of the Child Welfare Reporters Working Group, which will include consideration of work which can be carried out in relation to Child Welfare Reporters before the register under the 2020 Act can be put in place.

On the Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Act 2020, we will take steps to implement this, in line with the Equally Safe Delivery Plan.

On the Domestic Abuse Protection (Scotland) Act 2021, we will take steps this year to implement Part 2, on social landlords terminating Scottish secure tenancies in cases involving abusive behaviour. We will also continue to discuss the implementation of Part 1 with key agencies and stakeholders, with a view to providing more details on next steps.

I have asked the Ministers with the policy lead for these three Acts to provide updates to the Committee on progress with implementation.

JAMIE HEPBURN

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