



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

Kaukab Stewart MSP
Minister for Equalities
Scottish Government

24 February 2025

Dear Kaukab,

Petition PE1787: The use of Makaton sign language in the legal system

The Committee considered its work programme at its meeting on Tuesday 4 February.

Within that consideration, the Committee reflected on work it had undertaken earlier in the parliamentary session, including the petition on [the use of Makaton sign language in the legal system](#) (PE1787), which called on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that all parts of the legal system use Makaton sign language.

The Committee agreed to close the petition at its meeting on 23 April 2024 on the basis that, [in a written update from officials on 16 April 2024](#), the Scottish Government indicated that the issues raised in the petition could be addressed through existing measures including the Appropriate Adult scheme, Letter of Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and – at that time – through the anticipated Human Rights Bill and the Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill.

As part of its discussion on 4 February, the Committee agreed to seek an update from the Scottish Government on progress made on the issues raised by the petition, particularly in light of neither the Human Rights Bill nor the LDAN Bill having been introduced.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Adam MSP
Convener

Contact: Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.