

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

10th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Ministerial portfolio - Note by the clerk

Introduction

1. At its meeting on [14 September 2021](#), the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee took oral evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Shona Robison MSP and Scottish Government officials on plans and priorities for Session 6 that fall within her portfolio. Ms Robison also updated the Committee on priorities falling within the portfolio of the Minister for Equalities and Older People, Christina McKelvie.
2. The Committee has undertaken work over several months in a number of areas falling within Ms McKelvie's portfolio, including in relation to a Public Petition to Ban Conversion Practices, its Inquiry into Women's Unfair Responsibility for Unpaid Care and Domestic Work during the pandemic and, more recently, on Gypsy/Traveller communities in Scotland.
3. It agreed that it would like to hear from the Minister for Equalities and Older People at its meeting on 29 March 2022. The aim of this evidence session is to take evidence on the Scottish Government's key priorities for legislation and policy which fall within its equalities and human rights remit and seek an update on a number of areas within the Committee's current work programme.
4. The information gathered will assist the Committee with the development of its work programme over the coming months and where it wishes to prioritise its scrutiny.

Ministerial portfolio - policy priorities

5. The session will provide an opportunity for the Committee to explore the Government's policy proposals, as well as hearing an update on current legislation and issues, such as:

- The work of the expert advisory group and proposals for legislation to ban Conversion Practices in Scotland;
- Future plans for gender recognition reform in light of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill;
- Progress on implementation of the Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Act 2020;
- An update on consultation plans for the proposed Human Rights Bill;
- The ongoing impact of, and recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic for marginalised groups and those with protected characteristics with particular focus on women following the Committee's recent inquiry.
- Update on policy issues on a range of strategies such as the Race Equality Framework and Action Plan; Gypsy Traveller Action Plan; Fairer Scotland for Disabled People; Fairer Scotland for Older People; New Scots Integration Strategy and Anti-Destitution Strategy; the Equally Safe Strategy and the Fairer Scotland for Women Action Plan;
- Updates on working groups (such as the First Minister's advisory council on women and girls, working group on misogyny, working group on non-binary equality and the working group on sex and data in gender);
- Plans for the New Scots Refugee Integration strategy;
- A timetable for progress on the PSED review;
- The funding and budgetary landscape for the portfolio.

Witnesses

6. The Committee will take oral evidence from the following witnesses at today's meeting:
 - **Christina McKelvie MSP**, Minister for Equalities and Older People;
 - **Jenny Kemp**, Strategic Lead for Gender, LGBTI and Disability Policy, Equality and Inclusion Division, Directorate for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights, Scottish Government; and
 - **Nick Bland**, Deputy Director, Directorate for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights, Scottish Government.

Clerks to the Committee
March 2022