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Convener

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

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*By email*

16 March 2022

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter of 4 March, in which you asked for my thoughts on the Lord President's letter to the Committee dated 20 January, and whether I intend to make any changes to how Scottish Government officials communicate with the Scottish Civil Justice Council and the Lord President's Private Office in relation to any future legislative changes.

As a Bill is being developed, and prior to its progression through the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government considers the need for court (or tribunal) rules. If we consider civil court rules are needed, officials prepare a policy paper requesting those rules for the Scottish Civil Justice Council, or one of its Committees.

The Scottish Government recognises the need to ensure effective implementation when Bills are passed by the Parliament. We are planning to update guidance used by officials to provide more details on this, including the need to consider whether court rules are needed, and effective early engagement with the Council and the Lord President's office.

As part of reflecting on implementation of the ACR Act, we are considering the points made in the Lord President's letter. The Scottish Civil Justice Council is crucial to the effective implementation of a number of pieces of legislation. We place great value on the work of the Council and are committed to ensuring that we collaborate with it in a way that reflects its own needs whilst also delivering implementation in an effective way.

**George Adam**

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