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30 March 2022

Children's Care and Justice Bill – Consultation on Policy Proposals

Dear Conveners,

I am writing to give the Committees notification regarding a Scottish Government consultation: 'Children's Care and Justice Bill – Consultation on Policy Proposals', which is published today (Wednesday 30 March 2022).

In light of the Committee's remit, I wished to draw attention to its publication. It is available from this web link: [Children's Care and Justice Bill - policy proposals: consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-care-and-justice-reforms/consultation-on-policy-proposals/) . Responses can be submitted via Citizen's Space: <https://consult.gov.scot/children-and-families/childrens-care-and-justice-reforms>.

The introduction of the Children's Care and Justice Bill in this Parliamentary session was a Programme for Government commitment. It forms part of the Scottish Government's commitment to support transformation in approaches to children within the youth and criminal justice systems. In doing so, we need to ensure focus is also on ensuring people who have been harmed receive the information and support they need irrespective of the age of the person who has caused harm or how this harm is responded to.

This is part of the Scottish Government's commitment to Keep the Promise, with the findings from the Independent Care Review having been central to the development of the policy proposals within this Consultation. Furthermore, the proposals build upon the recommendations of previous Committees. The proposals also align with, and will support the achievement of wider Government Strategies and Vision's, including the Youth Justice Vision.

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Therefore I am pleased to be publishing this consultation, seeking views of people and organisations across civic Scotland, to inform the development of legislation ahead of introduction to the Scottish Parliament.

The consultation will be open for 12 weeks, until the closing date of 22 June 2022.

The Scottish Government's future legislative programme will be set out in the Programme for Government and I am aware the Parliamentary Bureau will have its role in due process of Committee allocation for legislation as matters progress.

However, given the read-across of the issues covered to your current Committee remit, I wanted to give courtesy notice of publication and the consultation process.

I look forward to working with you and the committee in future. My officials working on this consultation are available to give further information if that is helpful, please contact CC&JBill@gov.scot with any questions you may have.

CLARE HAUGHEY

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