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Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

By email: ehrcj.committee@parliament.scot

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Dear Convener,

A HUMAN RIGHTS BILL FOR SCOTLAND: PUBLIC CONSULTATION

I am writing to inform you that the Scottish Government has today published its consultation on a new Human Rights Bill for Scotland. The public consultation will run for 16 weeks, closing on Thursday 5 October 2023.

The consultation seeks views on ambitious policy proposals to inform a new Human Rights Bill, which will be a significant milestone in Scotland's human rights journey, building on past work to embed a human rights culture. The proposed Bill would place a broader range of human rights at the centre of how Scotland's frontline public services are delivered, as well as its policy and law making processes.

Publishing this consultation delivers on our commitment to bring forward proposals in the first half of 2023 and will be supported by a broad programme of engagement.

The full consultation is available at <https://consult.gov.scot/equality-and-human-rights/a-human-rights-bill-for-scotland-consultation/>. A number of accessible and alternative formats have also been published to maximise consultation engagement, and further material to aide engagement will follow in the coming days.

I would be happy to meet with the Committee to discuss proposals and look forward to engaging with you further on these matters as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely,

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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