



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Richard Scott
Secretary
Scottish Justices Association

Social Justice and Social Security
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Via email only

Email: SJSS.committee@parliament.scot

06 February 2023

Dear Richard Scott,

The Social Justice and Social Security Committee is undertaking some work around applications for utility warrants in Scotland to try to establish how the process works and what protections there might be for customers who are struggling to pay their bills.

The Committee has had sight of guidance provided to Justices of the Peace in the Tayside, Central and Fife Sheriffdom. Advice Talks provided the guidance as an attachment to their [letter](#). Similarly, we have provided a copy of the guidance with our letter. We would be very grateful for the Association's views on the process for applying for – and judicial consideration of – warrants to enter customers' homes to disconnect the fuel supply or install a prepayment meter.

In particular, the Committee would be interested in:

- whether the guidance above – or similar – is used across Scotland
- whether the Association thinks the current warrant process does enough to ensure vulnerable customers are identified and supported

- whether the Association thinks enough is done to support people to object to warrant applications where this is appropriate
- any suggestions for improvements to the current process that you would be prepared to share.

We would be very grateful if the Association were able to supply a response by 27 February. This would allow the Committee to consider your views along with information supplied by other bodies involved in the process, such as the energy companies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Don', written in a cursive style.

Natalie Don MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee