

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

3rd Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Note by the clerk

Scottish Government priorities in session 6

Introduction

1. The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee will continue its oral evidence taking sessions of Session 6 at its meeting on 14 September. This session will be one of a number of evidence gathering sessions scheduled to take place during September and October 2021.
2. The aim of this evidence session is to explore with the Scottish Government the key priorities for legislation and policy which fall within its equalities and human rights remit. The information gathered will assist the Committee with the formulation of its work programme for 2021/22.

Scottish Government priorities

3. At its meeting on 14 September, the Committee will take oral evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government on the plans and priorities of the Scottish Government that fall within her portfolio and those falling within the portfolio of the Minister for Equalities and Older People.
4. This will provide an opportunity for the Committee to explore the Government's policy proposals in these areas, as well as considering other major policy issues, such as:
 - Scottish Government proposals for primary and secondary legislation within the portfolios for 2021/22 as well as looking ahead to possible areas of legislation for the rest of Session 6;

- The ongoing impact of, and recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic for marginalised groups and those with protected characteristics.
- Outstanding policy issues from Session 5, such as updates on a range of strategies including the Race Equality Framework and Action Plan; Gypsy Traveller Action Plan; Fairer Scotland for Disabled 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)
- The funding and budgetary landscape for both portfolios.

Witnesses

5. The Committee will question the following witnesses at today's meeting:

- Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government
- Nick Parton, Unit Head of Connected Communities Division, Scottish Government
- Emma Harvey, Divisional Performance Manager from Business Support Unit, Scottish Government
- Elisabeth Campbell, Deputy Director for Human Rights, Scottish Government
- Jess Dolan, Deputy Director for Equality and Inclusion, Scottish Government

Clerks to the Committee
September 2021