



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

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26 July 2022

Dear Ms Hunter Blackburn

Your email of 9 June

Thank you for your email 9 June.

The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee is a supporter of efforts to address the problems in our society from violence against women and girls (VAWG). We are also keen to engage with a range of people in our society who have lived experience of a number of matters within the Committee's remit. That is why during the passage of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill we have, or will have, met informally with:

- People who have lived experience of being transgender;
- An anonymous witness who provides single sex spaces to members of the public;
- Groups of parents who have experience of transgender issues; and
- People who have experience of what is commonly referred to as detransitioning.

During the passage of the Bill, we have also been able to hear from providers of VAWG spaces and services and also to listen to and read a range of views on the potential impact of the proposals in the Bill on single sex spaces such as VAWG services.

The Committee has considered your proposal to set up an informal engagement session on these matters. The Committee has now concluded its evidence-taking and the Parliament is now in recess. The Committee would, however, be keen to receive any views in writing from women with direct experience of VAWG issues and who have concerns about the Bill. These could come in the form of anonymised submissions if that was more appropriate. These would be circulated to all members and, subject to our

usual guidance on GDPR and defamation, published by the Committee. We would then be able to consider the views received along with all the other written and oral evidence sent to us.

Please let me know if you wish to take up this proposal. If so, I will arrange for the clerks to contact you and discuss how to take this forward.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe FitzPatrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Joe FitzPatrick
Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee