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Our Reference: 202400424229
Your Reference: Scottish Human Rights Bill

31 July 2024

Dear Neil Cowan,

Thank you for Amnesty's correspondence to the First Minister regarding the Scottish Government's Human Rights Bill. I also note and give thanks to the many signatories of this letter. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the First Minister given my portfolio responsibility for human rights and the incorporation of human rights treaties. I would be grateful if this response could be shared with your letter's signatories.

I want to reassure you that the Scottish Government remains firmly committed to advancing human rights in Scotland and continues to recognise the importance of incorporation in building a stronger human rights culture across public service delivery. The advancement of human rights – particularly for those furthest from realising their rights – is central to this government's priority missions of tackling child poverty, building excellent public services and tackling climate change.

The legislative priorities of the Scottish Government for the year ahead will be announced in the First Minister's upcoming Programme for Government.

Thank you again for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

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

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot



SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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