

In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



17th March 2014

Dear Jenny

I refer to your proposal for a Member's Bill on Human Trafficking and note that the final proposal as published on 18 February 2014 is for the Bill to:

- (a) require the creation of a Scottish anti-human trafficking strategy;
- (b) provide for the special treatment of human trafficking-related crime within the criminal justice system; and
- (c) provide for the support of survivors of human trafficking.

Under the Parliament's Standing Orders (Rule 9.14.12) the Scottish Government has the right to indicate that it will initiate legislation, within the same parliamentary session to give effect to a member's final proposal. I am writing to inform you that the Government has opted to exercise this right in respect of your final proposal as set out above. I enclose a copy of my letter to the Clerk formally confirming this decision.

You will be aware that the Scottish Government has already stated that it does not rule out legislation and has been exploring with the UK Government the potential to extend its Modern Slavery Bill to Scotland alongside the alternative option of our own human trafficking Bill. In view of the strong support for specific Scottish legislation and the fact that this is a criminal law matter it is most appropriate that the Scottish Government takes the lead in progressing legislation.

The Government recognises and welcomes the contribution you have made in progressing the agenda in this area. I would like to assure you that the work you have already undertaken, together with the work carried out following the Human Trafficking Summit I held in October 2012, and the Report to be published by the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on the draft Modern Slavery Bill, will inform the Government's development of its own legislation proposals. I would be more than happy to meet and discuss both this decision and how the Government intends to take forward legislation. I will also be engaging closely with relevant stakeholders, including the police, prosecutors and organisations representing the interests of the victims of human trafficking.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Parliamentary Business and the Conveners of the Justice, Equal Opportunities Committee and European and External Relations Committees for information.



KENNY MACASKILL