

GS/AH/HC

26 November 2013

Maureen Watt MSP
Convenor
Infrastructure and Capital
Investment Committee
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH EH99 1SP

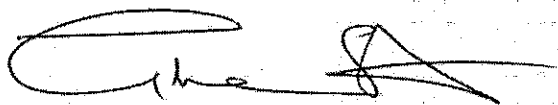
Dear Maureen

**STUC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE – 11/12 NOVEMBER 2013
RESOLUTION NO. 7 “PROCUREMENT REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL”**

Please find enclosed a copy of a recent decision taken by delegates at the STUC Women's Conference.

As the Bill is currently before the Scottish Parliament, I am bringing this to your attention for information. I have written to the Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, seeking comment.

Yours sincerely



Grahame Smith
General Secretary



Resolution No. 7 "Procurement Reform (Scotland) Bill"

"That this Conference welcomes the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Bill as an opportunity to ensure that annual procurement spending of nearly £11 billion is used to deliver important social, economic and environmental benefits, including improved protections for workers.

"We agree with the proposal in the consultation paper that there should be a general duty on public sector bodies to demonstrate the extent to which what is being procured will promote or improve the economic, social, health and environmental well-being of the relevant area.

"In particular, we believe the Bill should be used to promote:

- labour rights and workforce protections, and compliance with the Equality Act;
- a tax justice approach, where, using appropriate legal advice, the best options are found to bar companies using tax havens and/or other forms of tax dodging from being eligible for public contracts; and
- a positive employment agenda, with companies which do not comply with a range of other certain basic standards not permitted to tender for public contracts (a current example that should lead to exclusions would be the scandal over blacklisting of trade unionists in the construction industry).

"Conference is aware that many public sector contracts affect women as employees and service users.

"It is, therefore, crucial that the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Bill reflects their contribution and protects the services they rely on for employment and use.

"Conference calls on the STUC Women's Committee to lobby the Scottish Government to:

- extend the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Scottish Specific Duties to all procurement contracts; and
- ensure the Scottish Living Wage is applied, both for directly employed staff and for employees working for contractors."