

Minister for Public Health
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Nigel Don MSP
Convenor, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee
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16th March 2016

Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your letter of 15 March, and for the scrutiny the Committee has given the Bill. I am pleased that the changes made to the Bill so far have addressed many of your concerns.

I note, however, that the Committee remains concerned about section 66 in relation to the licensing of funeral directors. I am confident that the approach set out in the Bill offers appropriate safeguards, but given the Committee's ongoing concern over this issue, I am willing on this occasion to lodge amendments to give effect to the Committee's recommendations that an enhanced form of affirmative procedure should apply to this power.

Should Ministers decide to introduce a licensing scheme for funeral directors, my officials will, of course, work closely with funeral directors and other relevant parties in developing a scheme. The enhanced affirmative procedure will underscore that approach.

Best wishes

Maureen

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