

Karen Adam MSP
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

29 February 2024

Dear Convener,

Appointment as Convener of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

Congratulations on your appointment as the Convener of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee at the Scottish Parliament.

As Scotland's National Human Rights Institution, the Commission is an independent public body, accountable to the people of Scotland through the Scottish Parliament. The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee has a crucial role in engaging with, and monitoring our work.

Our full duties and powers are set out in the [Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006](#). These include a general duty to promote awareness, understanding and respect for all human rights – economic, social, cultural, civil and political – to everyone, everywhere in Scotland, and to encourage best practice in relation to human rights.

The Commission is also accredited as an "A Status" [National Human Rights Institution](#) (NHRI) within the United Nations (UN) system. This means we can report directly to the UN on human rights issues that we bear witness to in Scotland.

Our accreditation confirms that the Commission meets the standards set out in the Paris Principles, which guide the operating requirements for NHRIs across the world. Under these Principles, the Commission works in cooperation to promote and protect human rights in a pluralistic, independent and effective manner, including our engagement with parliament and predominantly your committee.

Your appointment to the Committee comes ahead of a significant moment as the Scottish Government's proposed Human Rights Bill is due to be introduced to

Parliament in the Spring of 2024. The Commission also enters the first year of a new strategic plan, and expects to welcome a new Chair within a similar timeframe.

In order to advance opportunities to work together in pursuance of our mandate, I hope that we might be able to arrange an early meeting to discuss the Committee's work programme and the Commission's priorities for 2023/24.

Please contact our Executive Director, Jan Savage via jan.savage@scottishhumanrights.com in order to progress arrangements.

I look forward to our meeting, and to working with you in your new post.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jan Savage', written in a cursive style.

Jim Farish
Member of the Scottish Human Rights Commission (rotational Chair, February 2024)