

Ben MacPherson MSP
Convener
SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Via email: ben.macpherson.msp@parliament.scot;
SSBLR.committee@parliament.scot

7 March 2025

Dear Ben,

Scottish Human Rights Commission

Thank you for the invitation to the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) to attend the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee on 27th February 2025 to give evidence to inform the Inquiry's recommendations.

I hope you and the Committee members agree that the wide ranging discussion on the function, performance and current remit of the SHRC was useful, and that it was a positive opportunity to engage the Committee on broader issues of mandate, comparative and future opportunities for ensuring rights realisation for all in Scotland, and the role of the SPCB in supporting officeholders.

During that meeting, I was asked a series of direct questions about the SHRC's position on women's rights by Ash Regan MSP. I appreciate your offer to follow this up in writing with you as the Convener of the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee, as well as our lead Committee, and provide a copy to Ms Regan. Please find enclosed a short position statement approved by all members of the Commission, which extends my comments in Committee, and I trust is of interest.

In addition, I also agreed to follow up with information about the SHRC's exploration of alternative models of delivery to improve monitoring and accountability for human rights in Scotland.

I referenced the following documentation, which I encourage members to revisit, and your clerks to reference:

- **At a Crossroads: What Next for Human Rights in Scotland** (June 2023) explores the potential expanded monitoring and membership models, building on existing practice in other countries, which the SHRC may be able to progress with, should that be the will of the Scottish Parliament. The report can be accessed here:

[crossroads_what-next-for-human-rights-protection-in-scotland-shrc-june-2023.pdf](#)

- **A Stronger Human Rights Commission for Scotland** (October 2023) provides an in-depth assessment of the potential scope of new powers for the SHRC and was published as part of the SHRC's response to the consultation on the proposed Human Rights Bill, which contained a proposed section on amending the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006. The report can be accessed here:

[A Stronger Human Rights Commission for Scotland](#)

During the process of developing this submission, and the ensuing discussions with the Scottish Government, officials liaised on the development of a costed model for these new powers to inform the financial memorandum for the proposed Bill; and a summary of this could be made available to the Committee if this would be helpful.

Our team are very happy to talk to the Committee clerks about any of the above in more detail. Please do contact us via chairandexecutive@scottishhumanrights.com and our Executive Director, Jan Savage, will progress the arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Angela O'Hagan
Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Cc: Ash Regan MSP

Enc Letter to EHRCJ Committee and SHRC Position Statement on Women's Rights