

Finance Committee
Community Justice (Scotland) Bill
Submission from West Lothian Council

Response

Consultation

1. Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

Yes, comment was provided on the potential for additional workload for local authorities while no additional resources had been identified within the section 27 grant.

2. If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?

There is still no recognition of the potential for additional workload for local authorities or any increase to the overall section 27 grant.

3. Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?

Yes.

Costs

4. If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

The financial implications centre around the potential to require the employment of additional officers within Criminal Justice to deal with the additional reporting requirements – this is not reflected in the FM.

5. Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?

As stated above no recognition is taken of additional employee costs for local authorities.

6. If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?

We do not have any available financial resources to meet additional staffing costs as a result of the bill and would expect these to be fully funded by the Scottish Government.

7. Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill's estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?

As stated above, the potential for additional workload and staffing costs are not reflected in the FM.

Wider Issues

8. Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?

As stated above we do not believe that the Bill reflects the additional staffing costs likely to be incurred by local authorities.

9. Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?

We do not believe that it is possible to anticipate future costs at this time.