

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP (SCOTLAND) BILL FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

#### SUBMISSION FROM SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

***Did you take part in either of the Scottish Government consultation exercises which preceded the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?***

1. Yes, we did. No, we did not comment on the financial assumptions. Due to the limited number of approvals and temporary approvals issued, the financial impact on the Council will be less than £5,000 per annum. However, it should be noted that with 'celebrants' being extended to include 'belief' organisations this could also result in a reduction of income from 'ceremonies'.

***Do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?***

2. Only in respect of the removal of 'approvals'.

***Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?***

3. Yes

#### **Costs**

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

4. Yes, but on the assumption that there will be no costs associated with any necessary upgrades to the 'FER' system

***Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM and projected over 15 years for each service are reasonable and accurate?***

5. We cannot comment for other Local Authorities. In respect of South Lanarkshire impact will be as above

***If relevant, are you content that your organisation can meet the financial costs associated with the Bill which your organisation will incur? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?***

6. With the abolition of Civil Marriage Approvals and the extension of venues where marriages can take place the registrar will still have to carry out some kind of Health and Safety inspection to ensure that the premises/venues are suitable. A charge will require to be made for such a visit. This would not apply to premises which are already licensed under different legislation, eg hotels. This will go some way to recouping the stated loss of income.

7. If the 'FER' system needs upgraded to reflect the changes in legislation it is presumed that this cost will, as is usually the case, be met by National Records of Scotland.

8. There could be a further impact on income derived from 'ceremonies' due to the effect of permitting representatives from 'belief' organisations to carry out ceremonies.

***Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the estimates and the timescales over which such costs would be expected to arise?***

9. With the exception of responses to question 1 and 6 would appear to reflect costs affecting South Lanarkshire Council. However, there could be hidden IT costs due to any potential FER upgrades.

### **Wider Issues**

***Do you believe that the FM reasonable captures costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?***

10. See response to Q6 above.

***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?***

11. Not known at this time.