

Justice Committee

Scottish Civil Justice Council and Criminal Legal Assistance Bill

Letter from the Scottish Government to the Scottish Committee of the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council

Firstly, may I note my thanks for the work of the Scottish Committee of the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council (AJTC) in supporting the reform of the tribunals' landscape in Scotland. Reports and the contribution by the Committee to this debate have been valuable. I am also interested in the work the Committee has been taking forward on administrative justice more generally.

With this in mind, I wish to consider what we may put in place in Scotland following the abolition by the UK Government of the AJTC. I have asked my officials to consider options for the long-term. Until I have received this advice, I am conscious that I do not want work to falter under the uncertainty of timing around when the abolition may take place. Therefore, I would like to confirm that my intention is to continue many of the functions of the Committee post abolition by setting up a non-statutory advisory committee.

This will see a small shift in responsibilities as the advisory committee can only at this stage be non-statutory. I believe that this will allow us some certainty and continuity whilst we consider long-term options for the work of tribunals and administrative justice in Scotland.

I have asked Norman Egan, Chief Executive of the Scottish Tribunals Service, to discuss this proposal with you in more detail.

I am copying this letter to the Justice Committee for their information.

Roseanna Cunningham
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs
4 September 2012