



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Councillor Elena Witham  
Community Wellbeing Spokesperson  
CoSLA

All correspondence c/o:  
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23 May 2018

Dear Councillor Elena Witham,

### **Inquiry into Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament**

Thank you for providing oral evidence to the Committee on 26 April 2017. It was a fascinating session and will be useful in helping to shape the Parliament's approach to protecting and promoting human rights in Scotland, as well as refining the role of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee within any new approach.

In addition to the current inquiry, we wish to make use of the information gathered in these sessions to inform, and progress, our other ongoing human rights work, for example, how local authorities consider human rights when planning their services and taking budgetary decisions. You can see the responses we have received from local authorities [here](#).

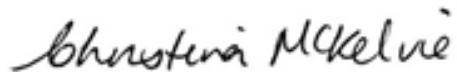
It is within this context that we'd like to seek your assistance. We would be interested to know what consideration CoSLA has given to its role in sharing best practice on human rights across local authorities. For example, has any work been undertaken on identification of human rights policy and practice that would lend itself to having a consistent approach amongst local authorities. This policy and practice might be for instance related to identifying

communities' needs, responding to those needs through service delivery, or the processes by which councils review and take decisions.

If the sharing of human rights best practice has not been a feature of your current or future programmed work, we would find it helpful to know your views on what role you consider CoSLA should take in this matter.

To help us move forward on this aspect of our work programme, we would appreciate a response by Friday 15 June.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christina McKelvie".

Christina McKelvie  
Convener  
Equalities and Human Rights Committee