

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Lewis Macdonald
Convener
MSP Health and Sport Committee
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

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Dear Convener

Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill: Scottish Government view on protected subject-matter

As you will be aware, the Presiding Officer has a statutory responsibility under section 31(2A) of the Scotland Act 1998 to take a decision on whether or not a Bill relates to a protected subject matter. The 1998 Act requires any Bill that does so to be passed by a super-majority. The 1998 Act requires the Presiding Officer's decision to be taken after the last point at which the Bill can be amended. In practice the Presiding Officer takes and notifies the Parliament of that decision after any stage 3 amendments have been considered.

In the meantime, I thought that your committee might find it useful to know that the Scottish Government's view is that the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill, as introduced, **does not contain** any provision that, under the Scotland Act 1998, would mean it required a super-majority to pass.

I am copying this letter to the Lord Advocate, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and to the Parliament's Legislation Team.



GRAEME DEY MSP

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