



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Chloe Riddell,
Policy Manager,
Children 1st

Via email only

Health and Sport Committee
T3.40

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 5410

Calls via RNID Typetalk: 18001 0131 348 5224

Email: healthandsport@parliament.scot

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Dear Chloe,

Health and Sport Committee consideration of the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill

Thank you for giving evidence to the Health and Sport Committee on 20 May 2020. The Committee appreciates your time and the information you provided.

The following resources are now available from the session:

- [The Official Report](#)
- [Broadcast recording of the session](#)

During the session, you spoke about ongoing work with respect to a Barnahus approach for child victims and witnesses in Scotland, and work undertaken by Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Care Inspectorate to develop professional standards.

You clearly articulated the concerns around the scope of the Bill and the potential to create legislation to children that is separate to a wider children's approach.

In terms of references to children on the face of the Bill, the Bill does not explicitly reference children aside from where alleged perpetrators are under the age of criminal responsibility. However, the Bill does apply to all victims of sexual offences, irrespective of age. It does not specifically detail that this is both adults and children, but instead refers to all people/victims. The accompanying documents are clear that it does include children and the only parts that exclude children are around self-

referral. The Bill team has also prepared a [child rights and welfare impact assessment](#).

With that all in mind, could you further give an indication of whether Children 1st would prefer children to be included in this Bill or addressed in separate legislation?

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response by Wednesday 3 June 2020 and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald
Convener, Health and Sport Committee