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23 September 2024

Dear Madam,

**Proposed Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill**

Thank you for giving the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) the opportunity to consider the above consultation to which I now respond. The response is submitted by the SCTS acting in its role to provide efficient and effective administration to the courts and tribunals and does not include the views of the Judiciary.

The SCTS cannot comment on the questions posed as they do not directly affect the SCTS. However, we note a number of the consultation proposals, particularly the creation of new offences (and prosecutions) which may impact the SCTS in relation to:-

- court time and relative court programming;
- associated staff and accommodation resources;
- costs involved in relevant IT changes.

In the context of new offences, you may also wish to refer to the estimated costs of criminal court procedures in Scotland ([Table 2: Costs of the criminal justice system in Scotland dataset](#)) as part of any financial assessment work that may be required.

**Repeal of previous convictions under section 46 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982**

In addition to the above costs, the SCTS may incur further costs in the context of the records of convictions (both electronic and manual paper records) it may hold under section 46 of the 1982 Act where such a conviction is to be “repealed”. However, these costs will very much depend on the approach taken into how such repeals are to be achieved as this will impact on what action (if any) the SCTS would be required to take in relation to the convictions held on its I.T. systems/ paper based records.

The SCTS are content for this response to be published and would be grateful if we could be kept informed of the progress of the proposed Bill and for the opportunity to contribute to the supporting financial memorandum at the appropriate time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Kubeczka', written over a light grey rectangular background.

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