

Scottish Government submission of 3 May 2023

PE2015/A: Extend the right to vote in Scottish local government and Scottish Parliament elections to all prisoners

Your e-mail of 4 April sought the views of the Scottish Government in relation to the petition referenced above.

The Government notes the petitioner's "calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to extend the right to vote in Scottish local government and Scottish Parliament elections to all prisoners held in Scottish prisons".

Scottish Ministers are required, under section 6 of the [Scottish Elections \(Franchise and Representation\) Act 2020](#) ("the Franchise Act"), to undertake a review of the operation of section 5 of that Act (voting by convicted persons sentenced to terms of 12 months or less). This is with a view to considering whether the 12 month sentence threshold for prisoner voting in Scottish Parliament and local elections is appropriate.

As required by the Franchise Act, Ministers will lay a copy of the report on the review before the Scottish Parliament no later than 4 May 2023. It will also be published on the Scottish Government website tomorrow morning at <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781805258285>

In addition, a related report on the results of a survey of eligible prisoners conducted at the time of last May's local elections will also be published on the Scottish Government website on 4 May at: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781805257455>

I hope that this response is helpful to the Committee.