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Convener
Criminal Justice Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear Convener

CHARGES FOR ACCESS TO COURT TRANSCRIPTS

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 2022 and apologies for the delay in replying.

I have read the comments from the Lord President and recognise the concerns that have been raised, including the Committee's views around providing additional funding to support a scheme in place to provide court transcripts to survivors of rape and other sexual offences.

As you will have appreciated from the previous correspondence, the matter is not entirely straightforward, not least because of existing contractual arrangements that are in place and the potential funding resource that could be required. There is also a wider question around the existing legislative framework, and the extent to which that might need to be amended.

However, we are committed to working with justice agencies in improving victims' experiences wherever possible and this includes consideration with Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service of the question of charges for transcripts to victims of rape and other sexual offences.

As the Committee recognises, this is an area which is part of our broader commitment towards providing a trauma-informed and person-centred justice system for victims of these crimes.

I will look to provide the Committee with an update on that work as it progresses.



KEITH BROWN

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