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Audrey Nicoll MSP
Convenor
Criminal Justice Committee
By email: Justice.committee@parliament.scot

17 June 2025

Dear Audrey,

Thank you for your letter dated 2 June 2025 in relation to firefighters' and police pensions and the McCloud remedy.

I am grateful for the Committee's review of the Police Pension Scheme (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 and the Firefighters' Pensions Remediable Service (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 and note that no recommendations were made.

I am grateful that you have highlighted to me the issues raised by the committee in their 33rd Report, 2025.

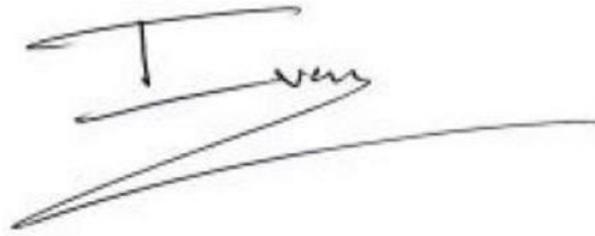
I have discussed your letter with officials who confirm that they reflect carefully on all points raised by Parliament in these circumstances. There are some instances in which officials will ultimately conclude, after suitable analysis, that amendments are not in fact required. In relation to the specific examples cited in paragraphs 57 to 60, officials concluded that the wording used was sufficiently clear to be applied by pensions technicians in practice and that there would be no disadvantage to the interests of beneficiaries of the affected schemes in maintaining the wording used. The views of the Committee regarding preferred drafting practice have been noted, however, and will be applied in future instruments where relevant..

On your second point, I understand that the issue raised by the committee will be corrected by the same approach taken in respect of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme. A Scottish Statutory Instrument (SSI) will be scheduled to include this correction with an expectation that the SSI will be made during the autumn of 2025.

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ivan McKee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

IVAN MCKEE

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