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17 October 2022

Dear Joe,

I am writing to make you aware that the Scottish Government has published a position statement for the UK's fourth Universal Periodic Review ("UPR") cycle. The position statement is now available on the Scottish Government website¹.

The UK's participation in the UPR process as the UN Member State provides an opportunity for the Scottish Government to publicly account for the measures we have taken to give effect to the full range of our international human rights obligations. This position statement therefore sets out the actions that we have taken in devolved areas since the start of the UK's last UPR cycle in 2017, across fifteen themes, to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of everyone in Scotland. The position statement also includes an overview of the UPR process and the Scottish Government's involvement in the UK's current UPR cycle.

I should make clear that this position statement does not form part of the formal UPR documentation submitted to the UN². Rather, position statements of this kind are intended to assist the Scottish Parliament, civil society stakeholders, and other interested parties in engaging with treaty reporting processes and scrutinising the Scottish Government's human rights record. They can also be used informally by international institutions, including UN Special Rapporteurs and treaty bodies.

The interactive dialogue session for the UK's fourth UPR cycle will take place in Geneva on 10 November 2022.

¹ [Universal Periodic Review 2022: Scottish Government Position Statement - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Information/Press/2022/10/17-10-2022-01)

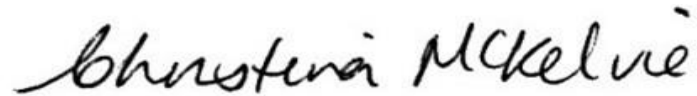
² The Scottish Government actively contributed to the formal National State Report for the UK's fourth UPR round, which was published on the UK Government website in August 2022: [Fourth Universal Periodic Review: National State Report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/Fourth-Universal-Periodic-Review-National-State-Report-2022.pdf).

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The Scottish Government will contribute to the UK's participation in that session and to the UK's formal response to the recommendations made by the UN Human Rights Council. Our further intention is to publish a detailed Scottish response to the UN recommendations as we did in 2017³.

I will provide the Committee with a further update on the progress of the UK's fourth UPR cycle in due course.

Yours sincerely,



CHRISTINA MCKELVIE

³ [Universal periodic review of human rights in the United Kingdom 2017: response to recommendations - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot).

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