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Kaukab Stewart MSP
Convener
Equality, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

26 January 2024

Dear Convener,

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW – SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

I am writing to advise the Committee that the Scottish Government has published a formal response to recommendations issued by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) following its last Universal Periodic Review (UPR)¹ of the UK's overall human rights record.

Our response to the recommendations follows on from the Scottish Government's position statement published in October 2022² in advance of the Interactive Dialogue held in Geneva in November 2022. Both that position statement and our detailed response to the UNHRC's recommendations are now available on the Scottish Government's website. The response to the recommendations, published on 24 January, can be found at: [UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review - fourth cycle recommendations: Scottish Government response](#)

UK participation in the UPR process provides an opportunity for the Scottish Government to publicly account for the measures we have taken, in Scotland, to give effect to international human rights obligations. Our response to the UNHRC recommendations adopts a thematic approach which explains the progress that has been made since October 2022 and the next steps we need to take in order to implement the latest UPR recommendations.

The next key milestone in the current UPR cycle will be a mid-term report in 2025, with the conclusion of the current (fourth) cycle and commencement of the fifth cycle expected to be in 2026 or 2027.

¹ [Universal Periodic Review - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | OHCHR](#)

² [Universal Periodic Review 2022: Scottish Government Position Statement](#)

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I will provide the Committee with further updates on progress under the current UPR cycle in due course and will also write to you in the near future to provide an annual update on wider engagement with treaty reporting processes and international institutions.

Yours Sincerely

EMMA RODDICK

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