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Linda Fabiani MSP
Convener – Committee on the Scottish
Government Handling of Harassment Complaints
c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T1.03
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

16 March 2021

Dear Convener,

I am pleased to share with you today the [review](#) by Laura Dunlop QC of the Scottish Government's procedure for handling harassment complaints involving current or former Ministers.

As you will be aware, this externally led review was commissioned by the Scottish Government following the concession of the Judicial Review brought by Alex Salmond. The Scottish Government accepted that there had been flaws in the application of the procedure for investigating the complaints and that lessons should be learned.

Laura Dunlop's review makes a number of recommendations to strengthen the process for handling such complaints in the future, which I welcome. We will now work with the Scottish Government Council of Unions, on how these recommendations could be implemented, in the wider context of the Committee's forthcoming report, and the report from James Hamilton, independent advisor on the Ministerial Code, before finalising an implementation plan which will be published in June by the new administration.

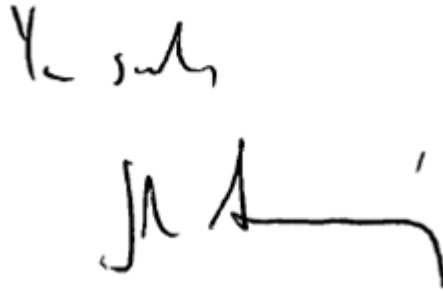
I am determined the Scottish Government ensures that any future complaints are handled with the utmost sensitivity and professionalism.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



Ms Dunlop's review is being proactively published on the Scottish Government website today, and I have asked officials to ensure that a copy of the review is lodged with the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe).



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