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Mr Per-Anders Sunesson
By email: [REDACTED]

25th September 2019

Dear Per-Anders,

I am writing to thank you for hosting the fact-finding visit to Stockholm last month regarding Sweden's approach to prostitution. I appreciated having the opportunity to talk with yourself, the Swedish Police Authority, the Swedish Prosecution Authority, Talita, the Mika Reception Centre, and Anna Skarhed. It was positive to see that every representative we met with showed true commitment and enthusiasm for the approach Sweden has adopted towards addressing prostitution.

I was particularly grateful to learn and gain clarity on the rationale behind the sex buyer law and how this has been received in Sweden. It was further highly useful to understand more on how the law had been implemented and just how important the issue of implementation was understood by representatives. Additionally, this visit was incredibly helpful for understanding the real impact this legislation has had in Sweden over the past 20 years.

It is important that the Scottish Government engages with and learns more about approaches which have been adopted to address prostitution and what the impacts have been. As such, the Scottish Government will launch a national consultation to gather views on how best to challenge men's demand for prostitution in Scotland. Views will also be sought around reducing the harms associated with prostitution and supporting women involved to exit. The information gathered from this visit will inform future conversations on how vulnerable women in prostitution can be best supported in Scotland.

I would be grateful if you could pass on my gratitude to Detective Superintendent Kajsa Wahlberg, Detective Inspector Simon Häggström, Marie Lind Thomsen, Eva Wintzell, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Anna Skarhed, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from Talita.

I wish you all the very best in the year ahead.

ASH DENHAM

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