

Dear [REDACTED]

I received the (attached e-letter) from Ash Denham's office - in response to my email etc a month ago (below) that I sent as a constituent of hers.

That response to me recommends I contact you as one of her policy officers.

I've tried phoning the number provided a few times without luck. I hope this email will help us arrange a time to meet.

I am fairly flexible, so if you suggest a couple of times, I will probably say yes to one of them.

Thanks in advance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

**My email (9th Jan 2020) to Ash Denham**

Re: Appt request for your surgery. Re: Justice Committee: Scrutiny of Children (Scotland) Bill

Dear Ash Denham

We had a useful discussion a couple of years ago - before you took on a special responsibility for this brief - about our shared concerns for how Scotland's family law system deals with the troubled families who seek to be helped after they separate.

I wonder if now would be a good time to catch up again about this?

My experience and thinking has moved on several stages since then. While my concern has grown further I have a confidently developed radical but simple reform, an economically feasible effective solution to share.

I'm concerned that the Bar Reporters Working Group, the consultation process, the draft bill, and even the best efforts of the Justice Committee now to scrutinise the draft bill, have been shaped up to tinker as a way to keep the vested interests of the poorly functioning status quo in place.

I wonder if you also have some of these same doubts - perhaps whether a confidential discussion might be of interest to you now?

For your information, I've added below an email and PDF of a letter I've just sent to Margaret Mitchell and the other MSP members of the Justice Committee.

I'm happy to be slotted in at a surgery that suits you best. Thanks.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

~ ~ ~

Sent 9th Jan 2020

To: The Convener of the Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament  
Re: Scrutiny of the Children (Scotland) Bill

Dear Margaret Mitchell MSP

This email is to check that you received a personal letter I sent you a week ago. I attach a useful PDF version of that letter. And this email also gives you my email address.

In my letter, I was offering those scrutinising the draft Children (Scotland) Bill, the benefit of my professionally experienced and full-time research for many years in this field in Scotland.

I mentioned two gaps in particular that are most concerning to me:

- How you assess the qualifications of those who claim to be authorities.
- How a much bolder approach might be indicated now. For example, I suggested why you might consider emulating the highly regarded ways and findings of Kilbrandon 50 years ago.

I note that, this coming Tuesday 14th January, you will be meeting [REDACTED]. I suggest she provides you a bench-mark for professional experience, competence, wisdom, and qualification: a good opportunity to explore the first question.

And I place my own expertise in this field at your service if you would like to arrange to discuss any issues further.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]