

T: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
President
Social Work Scotland

By email: [REDACTED]

30 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED] ■

CHILD WELFARE REPORTERS: TRAINING

1. This letter invites Social Work Scotland to consider what training you could provide to Child Welfare Reporters appointed by the court in relation to cases under section 11 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.
2. As you will be aware, the Scottish Government chaired a Working Group on Child Welfare Reporters. Information on the Working Group and its outcomes is available on the Scottish Government website at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Justice/law/17867/reporters>
3. One of the recommendations of the Working Group was that a training scheme for Child Welfare Reporters be established. The aim was to lay down requirements for membership of the lists of those persons who may be appointed as Child Welfare Reporters (and the lists of those who may be appointed as curator *ad litem* to a child, excluding curators *ad litem* appointed from a panel established under The Curators ad Litem and Reporting Officers (Panels) (Scotland) Regulations 2001).
4. The Scottish Government has had correspondence with the Lord President and the Sheriffs Principal on this issue. This correspondence has been published and is at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Justice/law/17867/reporters/letters-judiciary-Sep-16> The Lord President has indicated that he has reservations about “regulating” Child Welfare Reporters in the absence of any clear powers to do so.
5. The Scottish Government intends to consider the regulation of Child Welfare Reporters, including the training, qualifications and experience which Reporters should have, in its review of part 1 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. We expect to carry out a public consultation on the review of part 1 of the 1995 Act, and on the Family Justice Modernisation Strategy, early in 2018.

6. In the meantime, I would be grateful if Social Work Scotland could consider what steps you could take now to train your members who act as Child Welfare Reporters. Given the public interest in this area, and in the interests of transparency, the Scottish Government would intend to publish your response to this letter, unless you have any objections to that.

7. I am writing in similar terms to the Faculty of Advocates, the Family Law Association and the Law Society of Scotland.

8. I am copying this letter to [REDACTED] of the Lord President's Private Office.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Family and Property Law