

From: [redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)] **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 26 May 2023 10:27
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Sentencing guidelines

PEU

OR please.

Cheers

[redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]

| First Minister's Ministerial Private Office | 5th Floor | St Andrew's House |
Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | 0131 244 6314 |

**Please note, I work a part time flexible working pattern over Tuesday-Friday.
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From: [redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]

Sent: 24 May 2023 22:06
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: Sentencing guidelines

Dear First Minister

I wish to express my disgust at what is happening in our courts.

Thanks to the Scottish Sentencing Council, women are less safe in Scotland. We
have rapists being sentenced to community service and now a feral animal of a
human has had 5 years reduced from his sentence - because of his age.

How can this be justified???

Jill Barclay, 47, was attacked while walking home after a night out in [Aberdeen](#) last
September.

Rhys Bennett, 23, who had followed his victim from a pub in the Dyce area,
repeatedly stamped on her head and body, smacked her head against a downpipe,
compressed her neck and dragged her along the ground.
He then raped her, before later returning to pour petrol on her and setting her alight.

During sentencing, Lord Arthurson branded the violence "feral".
He told Bennett: "The available evidence tells the horrible truth that your victim was still living at the time that the fire was set. To be crystal clear - you burned her alive."
Scotland's courts are a joke thanks to your government's change in the guidelines.
This is an absolute disgrace and you and your Party should be ashamed.

[redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]

From: [redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 26 May 2023 10:49
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Justice for victims.

[redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]
PEU

OR please.

Cheers

[redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]

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From: [redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)] On Behalf Of Yousaf H (Humza), MSP
Sent: 25 May 2023 11:03
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Justice for victims.

From: [redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]**Sent:** 25 May 2023 10:55
To: Yousaf H (Humza), MSP <Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Justice for victims.

CAUTION: *This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.*

First Minister. Please read my email to the Minister of Justice.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]**Date:** Thu, 25 May 2023 at 10:51

Subject: Justice for victims.
To: <Angela.Constance.msp@parliament.scot>

Rhys Bennett tortured raped and killed a young Woman by burning her alive, Jill Barclay, a Mother of two young children. His sentence of barley more than 20 years is a disgrace! He should serve a full life sentence. This soft justice is despicable . Dangerous criminals must be properly punished and the safety of the Pubkic must be paramount. Tough if it's expensive to keep them locked up. Money must not be the most important thing. The government's first duty is the safety of the Scottish public. No wonder there is so much evil despicable crime. There is no deterrent! This must change! Sincerely **[redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]**

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From: [redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs
Sent: 01 June 2023 08:45
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs <CabSecJHA@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: I Fear For Our Safety

Hi

One for micase as an OR please.

Thanks

[redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]
Assistant Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
– Angela Constance MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
Email: cabsecJHA@gov.scot

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From: Constance A (Angela), MSP <Angela.Constance.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 31 May 2023 22:45
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs <CabSecJHA@gov.scot>
Subject: Fw: I Fear For Our Safety

From: [redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]
Sent: 31 May 2023 20:32
To: Constance A (Angela), MSP <Angela.Constance.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: I Fear For Our Safety

Good afternoon

I am writing to you to highlight my absolute disgust, that once again, a man who carried out the heinous crime of a brutal rape and murder by setting his victim on fire while still alive, had his sentence reduced due to being under 25.

You'll no doubt excuse this by parroting the, "we can't intervene, and nor should we,

with sentencing". This is absolutely correct of course, but time and again, judges remind us that they are required by guidelines brought in by this current administration, to take into consideration the fact that someone is under 25.

Almost on a weekly basis we have some terrible crime committed against women where justice is not, in my option, correctly served due to the under 25 policy. We've had the 13 year old child assaulted on a number of occasions and then raped. Her perpetrator found guilty but avoided jail. An under 25 year old male who carried out a number of sexual assaults on women but told it wouldn't serve the public or victim any benefit if he was sent to jail. And as above, the monster who raped and burned alive a woman with a reduced sentence due to being under 25.

You, as an administration, can't in all seriousness agree with all the rights 16, 17 & 18 year olds have, but in the next breath, advise that they're not mature enough to fully comprehend the seriousness and consequences of their actions.

This under 25 policy is making Scotland a more dangerous place to live. Women will be disproportionately at risk compared to men as their under 25 years of age perpetrators of violence and sexual assault will be handed a soft touch sentence. Surely you can see how wrong this is.....? Surely you must feel in your gut that this is not right.....?

I genuinely feel less safe living and working in Scotland than ever before. What steps can you take to remedy this situation?

[redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]

Sent from my iPad

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From: [redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs
Sent: 30 May 2023 15:43
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs <CabSecJHA@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Scottish Courts Sentencing Guidelines

Hi

One for micase as an OR please.

Thanks

[redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]
Assistant Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
– Angela Constance MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
Email: cabsecJHA@gov.scot

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From: [redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]
Sent: 27 May 2023 19:38
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs <CabSecJHA@gov.scot>
Subject: Scottish Courts Sentencing Guidelines

I was shocked and horrified to read about the recent court case and sentencing of Jill Barclay's (from Aberdeen) murderer.

Why oh why, because the offender is under 25, are the guidelines dictating the offender should get a lesser sentence, because some research has evidently shown that a young person will generally have a lower level of maturity. If that is the case why are 16 year olds allowed to vote, get married and even join the army and 18 year olds can smoke and drink alcohol.

Please do not tell me that that murderer did not know he had done wrong, he should be locked up for life with the keys thrown away. The victim's family are already distraught enough without the added insult of a lesser sentence because he's 23!

SNP please get these guidelines ditched.
I will now never vote SNP ever!

Regards,
[redacted s38(1)(b)(personal information)]