

From: section 38(1)(b) on behalf of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic
Sent: 18 September 2025 16:36
To: Central Correspondence Unit
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic
Subject: FW: Child grooming gangs
Categories: MC/OR

MiCase for OR please.

Thanks,

section 38(1)(b)
Assistant Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – Kate Forbes MSP
Iar-Rùnaire Prìobhaideach don Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Eaconamaidh agus Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
Email: section 38(1)(b)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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

From: section 38(1)(b)
Sent: 18 September 2025 14:25
To: Forbes K (Kate), MSP <Kate.Forbes.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Child grooming gangs

Could you please explain why you voted down a public inquiry into grooming gangs in Scotland? As you are a parent I fail to see why you would do this.

Thankyou.
section 38(1)(b)

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

www.parliament.scot : facebook.com/scottishparliament : twitter.com/scotparl

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

From: section 38(1)(b)
Sent: 30 October 2025 14:21
To: section 38(1)(b)
Subject: FW: Fwd: Scottish grooming gangs (Case Ref: AC13081)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hey!

I just received the below which is in relation to section 38(1)(b) – individual asking Ms Constance why she voted against an inquiry.

Many thanks,
section 38(1)(b)

From: section 38(1)(b) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024
Sent: 30 October 2025 14:19
To: Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Cc: section 38(1)(b)
Subject: FW: Fwd: Scottish grooming gangs (Case Ref: AC13081)

For MiCase, OR. Linked to open MiCase 202500489730, cc'd in official for info

Kind regards,

section 38(1)(b)
Assistant Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs -
Angela Constance MSP
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |
CabSecforJHA@gov.scot

From: Angela Constance MSP <Angela.Constance.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 30 October 2025 13:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Fwd: Scottish grooming gangs (Case Ref: AC13081)

Dear Team,

On behalf of Angela Constance MSP

Please see emails below from Ms Constance's constituent. section 38(1)(b) has been back in touch with the constituency office disappointed to have not yet received a response to his enquiry.

Meantime, I have responded to him from this office sending links to the urgent question taken in the chamber on 28th October, lodged by Stephen Kerr MSP and advised he may well receive a separate response from the Scottish Government to his initial enquiry.

Thank you

Regards

section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b)

Caseworker to Angela Constance MSP

Almond Valley Constituency

section 38(1)(b)

From: Angela.Constance.msp@parliament.scot

Sent: 16 October 2025 09:35

To: CabSecforJHA@gov.scot

Subject: FW: Fwd: Scottish grooming gangs (Case Ref: AC13081)

Dear Team,

On behalf of Angela Constance MSP

Please see emails below from **section 38(1)(b)**

All emails on this topic were sent to the CabSec's office to provide a response and as you will note, **section 38(1)(b)** is keen to receive a response.

Thank you

section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b)

Caseworker to Angela Constance MSP

Almond Valley Constituency

section 38(1)(b)

From: **section 38(1)(b)**

Sent: 15 October 2025 18:20

To: Constance A (Angela), MSP

Subject: Fwd: Scottish grooming gangs

Dear Miss Constance, i emailed you on the 17th september asking a specific question as to why you voted as you did against the scottish grooming gang enquiry, as you are my MSP i would like an explanation & response please

regards

section 38(1)(b)

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

From: **section 38(1)(b)**
Date: Wed, 17 Sept 2025 at 21:24
Subject: Scottish grooming gangs
To: Angela Constance MSP

Dear miss Constance, please may I have an explanation regarding your thoughts on why you voted against the Scottish grooming gang enquiry.

Regards

section 38(1)(b)

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha slugh na h-Alba
www.parliament.scot : facebook.com/scottishparliament : twitter.com/scotparl

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

OUT OF SCOPE

From: section 38(1)(b)
Sent: 07 November 2025 14:19
To: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <ministerpbv@gov.scot>
Cc: section 38(1)(b); Eagle T (Tim), MSP <Tim.Eagle.MSP@Parliament.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <ministerpbv@gov.scot>; Presiding Officers <PresidingOfficers@parliament.scot>; Rennie W (Willie), MSP <Willie.Rennie.msp@parliament.scot>; Slater L (Lorna), MSP <Lorna.Slater.MSP@Parliament.scot>; Whitfield M (Martin), MSP <Martin.Whitfield.MSP@Parliament.scot>
Subject: Ministerial Statement Request

Dear Minister and team,

Tim would like to pass on a request for a statement on the reports that a grooming gang in Glasgow was reportedly not investigated, and any subsequent update from the Scottish Government on establishing an inquiry into grooming gangs in Scotland.

Best regards,

section 38(1)(b)
Head of Parliamentary Business
Whips Office | Tim Eagle MSP
section 38(1)(b)

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland

Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

www.parliament.scot : facebook.com/scottishparliament : twitter.com/scotparl

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

OUT OF SCOPE

From: section 38(1)(b)
Sent: 20 November 2025 13:37
To: section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b)
Cc: section 38(1)(b)
Subject: Request for a comment on CSA in Scotland

Hi both,

We've been fielding numerous requests for journalists this week seeking comment on the need for an inquiry into grooming gangs in Scotland.

As a courtesy, I wanted to make you aware of a response we have prepared for the Herald.

All the best,

section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b), NSPCC Scotland Policy and Public Affairs Manager, said:

“Child sexual abuse in all its forms devastates lives. Through our Helpline and Childline, we hear directly about the toll sexual abuse can take on a child’s mental and physical wellbeing. It is vital that we come together in Scotland to prevent child sexual abuse, and to ensure victims have access to the specialist support they need to help them recover.

“The formation of the Scottish Government’s National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group has been an important first step in helping to assess Scotland’s response to child sexual abuse and exploitation, but much more needs to be done, which includes Ministerial leadership, a clearer picture of the problem and greater investment in prevention and recovery.

“Understanding the true scale and nature of child sexual abuse in Scotland is vital to developing effective prevention and response strategies. There is much work to be

done in identifying and connecting data that's already available to better understand the risks to children and where the gaps in our knowledge are.

"To date the system response to child abuse has focused largely on bringing perpetrators to justice and providing some children with therapy and support. But child sexual abuse is an endemic problem, and the complexities demand that this issue is given serious, concerted and sustained attention.

"As a society, we should be focusing our efforts on ensuring that child sexual abuse is prevented before it occurs. This includes making sure all pupils in Scotland receive appropriate, consistent and high-quality relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education to address both on and offline risk comprehensively.

"We all have a role to play in keeping children safe. Public, private, and voluntary sector agencies need to work together to prevent this devastating crime. By taking a public health approach to the prevention of sexual offending against children, they will be able to grow up in a safer Scotland protected from harm both offline and online."

ENDS

section 38(1)(b) | Policy and Public Affairs Manager (Scotland) | NSPCC Scotland
section 38(1)(b) | [NSPCC](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)
144 Elliott Street, Glasgow, G3 8EX

Please read important notice below: This email and any documents sent with it are intended solely for the named recipient and may be legally privileged and/or confidential. If you have received this email in error please destroy it and contact the sender, via our switchboard on +44 (0) 20 7825 2500, or via return email. You should not copy, or use the contents, attachments or information in any way or pass them to a third party without prior permission from the author. Any unauthorised use or disclosure may be unlawful. The NSPCC cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this email after it is sent from the originator over the internet and accepts no responsibility for changes made after it was sent. Any opinion expressed in this email is personal to the author and may not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH. Incorporated by Royal Charter. Registered Charity Number 216401. Registered Scottish Charity Number SC037717. Registered Jersey Charity Number 384.

OUT OF SCOPE

From: section 38(1)(b)

Sent: 25 November 2025 13:07

To: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>

Cc: Chamber Desk ; section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b)

Subject: Urgent question selected for today
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

I wish to advise you that the Presiding Officer has selected the undernoted urgent question for today from Meghan Gallacher.

- **To ask the Scottish Government whether it will now hold an inquiry into grooming gangs in Scotland, in light of the recent reported comments by the NSPCC that the country lacks a clear understanding of the scale and nature of child sexual abuse.**

The Presiding Officer would like it to be taken at the end of the day before Decision Time.

I would be grateful if you could confirm timings as soon as possible and advise who will be responding to the question.

If you could also briefly confirm receipt of this email by return, it would be extremely helpful, just so we know it has been picked up.

Many thanks,

section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b) | [Senior Clerk](#) | [Chamber Desk](#) | section 38(1)(b) | [The Scottish Parliament](#) | [Edinburgh](#) | [EH99 1SP](#)

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland

Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

www.parliament.scot : facebook.com/scottishparliament : twitter.com/scotparl

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

OUT OF SCOPE

From: section 38(1)(b) **On Behalf Of** Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser

Sent: 14 November 2025 11:48

To: Iona Colvin; section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b)

Subject: FW: National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group

Importance: High

Hi there,

This email was received in the OCSWA mailbox and forwarding for information in respect of your involvement with CSAE.

Kind regards

section 38(1)(b)

Business Management Unit

Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser (OCSWA)

Children and Families Directorate | Scottish Government

From: section 38(1)(b)

Sent: 14 November 2025 11:04

To: Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser <OCSWA@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group

Importance: High

Dear Colleagues,

Please be advised that we have received contact from the Herald regarding a piece about the National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group and its role in assessing Scotland's response to group-based child sexual exploitation, including whether a national inquiry might be required.

CYCJ will not be commenting or offering background for this article.

Below is a copy of the original email we received for your information.

Kind regards,

section 38(1)(b)

Communications and Engagement Advisor

Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ)

Lord Hope Building (Level 6), University of Strathclyde, 141 St James Road, G4 0LT

section 38(1)(b)

www.cycj.org.uk

Check out our accessible website: www.justtherightspace.org

CYCJ has a brand new e-Learning platform! [Click here to find out more](#)

section 38(1)(b)

[Follow us on X](#)

[Sign up to receive our e-bulletin](#)

Staff at CYCJ are working on a hybrid basis. You can contact us on 0141 444 8622 or email cycj@strath.ac.uk



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow



**UK UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR
2026**

Daily Mail University Guide

**SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR
2026**

The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide

**THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
1996, 2019, 2021 & 2023**

For Higher and Further Education

**UK UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR
2012 & 2019**

Times Higher Education

The University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, number SC015263.
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: section 38(1)(b)

Sent: 14 November 2025 10:16

To: CYCJ <cycj@strath.ac.uk>

Subject: National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group

CAUTION: This email originated outside the University. Check before clicking links or attachments.

Hello,

section 38(1)(b) from The Herald here. I'm working on a piece about the National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group and its role in assessing Scotland's response to group-based child sexual exploitation, including whether a national inquiry might be required.

I'm contacting members of the group to try and get their perspectives.

Based on the material presented to the group, do you believe Scotland faces forms of group-based CSE that are comparable to those described in the Casey National Audit?

Is there, in your view, sufficient reliable data to understand the scale and patterns of group-based CSE in Scotland? If not, what are the most significant gaps?

Do you believe there is a case — now or potentially in future — for a national inquiry into group-based CSE or so-called “grooming gangs”?

Do you have confidence that the current structures (the CSAE Strategic Group, Police Scotland’s review, and analytical work by SG/CELCIS) are adequate to identify any systemic failures, if they exist?

In the group’s discussions, have particular issues emerged that you feel are urgent or under-recognised in public debate?

Are there any recommendations from the Casey Audit, IICSA or the Jay Review that you believe should be implemented in Scotland as a priority?

I know your time is limited, and I’m grateful for any help or comment or background you’re able to offer.

Best,

section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b)

The Herald

section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

Media Tower, the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Advertising: All advertising is accepted subject to our terms and conditions of advertising which can be found here

<https://www.newsquest.co.uk/terms-of-advertising>

Editorial: All content submitted, or licenced, to Newsquest is accepted pursuant to our Contributor Terms and Conditions

<https://www.newsquest.co.uk/contributor-terms>

This document is private and confidential.

All property, copyright and other rights in it and its contents belong to Newsquest Media Group Limited.

It must not be read, copied, disclosed or otherwise used without Newsquest’s authorisation. Newsquest may exercise its legal rights and remedies in the event of any such unauthorised use.

[Newsquest Media Group Limited.](#)

Registered in England, number 01676637. Registered office: 1st Floor, Chartist Tower, Upper Dock Street, Newport, South Wales NP20 1DW.
