

Please also find answer from Angela Constance to an urgent question on this topic on October 28 2025: Meeting of the Parliament: 28/10/2025 | Scottish Parliament Website

QUERY Secondly, I've written something up on Kemi Badenoch's tweet yesterday about grooming gangs. <https://x.com/KemiBadenoch/status/1987210709298536872>

You'll see she's accusing the Scottish Government of blocking attempts to launch a grooming gangs inquiry, and said the opposition to a probe risks "looking like a cover-up," and that if ministers did not change position, "many will ask... what have they got to hide?" Any chance of a response? That story is live now, so grateful for a line as soon as you're able to give it.

JOANI REID COMMENTS Joani Reid, Scottish Labour MP for East Kilbride and Strathaven, has today demanded immediate action on organised child abuse from the Scottish Government in the face of yet more evidence of widespread cruel sexual exploitation north of the Border. Following an investigation by GB News that concluded Police Scotland had failed to investigate alleged organised abuse of girls in care in Glasgow, Joani Reid said: "The reports of this case are harrowing. They are further evidence that children and vulnerable women are being abused by organised groups of men in Scotland, just as they are in England. "This case also exposes the complacency and at the top of the Scottish Government.; "First Minister John Swinney and Justice Minister Angela Constance have gone out of their way to pretend that organised sexual abuse and exploitation of girls and young women are a problem in England but not Scotland. "But the hard truth is clear. We do have a problem of serious organised child sexual abuse in Scotland, and we have a political establishment that is wilfully blind to it. They are determined to downplay each and every report of abuse and resist any and all steps towards an inquiry or to even having an independent review of case files. "Mr Swinney and the rest of the SNP must immediately act to ensure we have a fully independent review of the problem of organised child sexual abuse in Scotland."

Ends Notes to editors: The GB News report can be seen here - Grooming gangs: Police Scotland failed to investigate alleged Glasgow rape gang abuse

Thanks, section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) | Media Manager | Communications Education | section 38(1)(b) | Scottish Government | section 38(1)(b)

From: section 38(1)(b) on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

Sent: 26 September 2025 18:42

To: section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024; Jeanette Campbell; Director of Justice; Anna Donald

Subject: FW: Liam Kerr's amendment

Attachments: Blank.pdf

Hi section 38(1)(b)

Please see the attached letter Ms Constance has received from Professor Alexis Jay regarding a quote from her being used in Ms Constance's speech during the debate on Group 5 of the VWJR bill.

Grateful if officials could consider and draft appropriate response for Cab Sec's consideration.

Many thanks.

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

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

From: Constance A (Angela), MSP
Sent: 26 September 2025 17:07
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024
Subject: Fw: Liam Kerr's amendment

Ministerial correspondence

section 38(1)(b)

From: Alexis Jay <section 38(1)(b)>
Sent: 26 September 2025 16:51
To: Constance A (Angela), MSP <Angela.Constance.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Liam Kerr's amendment

Sent from my iPad

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

Subject: RE: FOR DUAL JUSTICE / CYP CLEARANCE // media queries - grooming gangs

Thanks section 38(1)(b) Ms Constance is content with the revised lines.

Thanks,
section 38(1)(b)
section 38(1)(b) - Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs – Angela Constance MSP
Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrews House, Regent Road,
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Tel: section 38(1)(b) | Mob: section 38(1)(b) | Email: CabSecforJHA@gov.scot

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

Sent: 27 October 2025 19:30

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024

<MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) >; section 38(1)(b)

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section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) >; Andrew Watson < section 38(1)(b) >; section

38(1)(b)< section 38(1)(b) >; Director for Children and Families

<DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Children's Rights,

Protection and Justice <ddcrpj@gov.scot>; Anna Donald section 38(1)(b) >; section

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38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) >; Child

Protection Mailbox <Child_Protection@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice

<dgej@gov.scot section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section

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<CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

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38(1)(b)>; Kate Higgins < section 38(1)(b)>; Sean McGivern < section 38(1)(b)>; Ross
Ingebrigtsen < section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)
Subject: RE: FOR DUAL JUSTICE / CYP CLEARANCE // media queries - grooming
gangs

Hi section 38(1)(b)

Ms Constance is generally content however asked that we add in the facts regarding
the Liam Kerr amendment (in comment or background), that it was for the Victims
and Witnesses Commissioner, a post still to be established to do some research at a
future point and not set up an inquiry.

Thanks,
section 38(1)(b)
section 38(1)(b)- Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and
Home Affairs – Angela Constance MSP
Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrews House, Regent Road,
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Tel: section 38(1)(b)| Mob: section 38(1)(b)| Email: CabSecforJHA@gov.scot

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From: section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)
Sent: 27 October 2025 17:59
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024
<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills
2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024
<MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell
< section 38(1)(b)>; Kate Higgins < section 38(1)(b)>; Sean McGivern <[section
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Rennick section 38(1)(b) Deputy Director for Children's Rights, Protection and
Justice <ddcrpj@gov.scot>; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section
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38(1)(b)

Subject: FOR DUAL JUSTICE / CYP CLEARANCE // media queries - grooming gangs

**PO / Justice Secretary,
PO / Children's Minister,**

Cc for awareness: FMPO; PO / Education Secretary; PO / Community Safety
Minister; for action: duty comms officer section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

Good afternoon,

The *Telegraph* and *Express* have approached following the sentencing of a grooming gang in Dundee, whose victims ranged in age from 16-30. That [story](#) is here for completeness.

Conservatives and Labour have also issued comments criticising SG, including for not including a grooming gangs inquiry in the Victims, Witnesses and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill.

section 30(c)

TELEGRAPH QUERY

Looking for your line on this [story](#) from today.

Specifically, please can you address whether the Govt's opposition to having a Scottish grooming gang inquiry has changed in light of this case.

OPPOSITION COMMENTS

Scottish Conservative shadow justice secretary Liam Kerr MSP said:

"I am pleased these vile, predatory criminals received such substantial sentences given their heinous crimes and it is absolutely vital that their victims receive support to handle their trauma.

“This appalling case is just one of many cases of gangs being responsible for the rape and sexual abuse of young women in Scotland.

“This is why I brought forward an amendment to the Victims Bill to set up a Scottish grooming gangs inquiry which the Greens and SNP shamefully rejected. The SNP’s block on an inquiry was an abject betrayal of victims and raises questions as to why they are refusing to allow a light to be shone on this scandal, which would enable vital lessons to be learned to prevent future abuse.

“John Swinney and the SNP Government must accept they got this wrong and order one now.

“It’s imperative that the voices of Scottish victims of these vile gangs are heard, just like victims south of the border. That’s the very least they deserve.”

Commenting on the conviction at the High Court in Glasgow of a gang of sexual exploiters operating in Dundee, JOANI REID, Scottish Labour MP for East Kilbride and Strathaven, said:

“The details of this case are shocking. It is right that the perpetrators have been handed long prison sentences.

“This Romanian gang exploited vulnerable children and young women from Eastern Europe with the promise of a better life. Yet abusive men are not confined to Romania, they exist everywhere.

“This case also exposes the indecent complacency at the top of the Scottish Government.

“First Minister John Swinney and Justice Minister Angela Constance have gone out of their way to pretend that organised sexual abuse and exploitation of girls and young women was not a problem in Scotland but only in England.

“But now the truth is out. We do have a problem of serious organised child sexual abuse in Scotland. And we have a political establishment determined to downplay it and resist any and every step towards having an inquiry into its extent or even having an independent review of case files.

“Mr Swinney and the rest of the SNP must immediately act to ensure we have a fully independent review of the problem of organised child sexual abuse in Scotland.”

Many thanks,

section 38(1)(b)_____

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Senior Media Manager | Education | Scottish Government |

media enquiries (call group): section 38(1)(b)| [Media enquiries - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/media-enquiries)

www.gov.scot

OUT OF SCOPE

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

Sent: 07 November 2025 18:20

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024

<CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <section 38(1)(b)>; Kate Higgins

<section 38(1)(b)>; Sean McGivern <[<section 38\(1\)\(b\)>](mailto:section 38(1)(b))>; J section 38(1)(b) section

38(1)(b)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b)<section 38(1)(b)>; Ian Donaldson <section 38(1)(b) section

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Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice <ddcrpj@gov.scot>; section

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for Children and Families <DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; Anna

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<CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; Communications Education &

Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; section 38(1)(b) section

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Communications Justice and Home Affairs

<CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For FM clearance- MEDIA query - Joani Reid comments/ grooming gangs - The Sun/ Daily Mail & Daily Express

Many thanks 38(1)(b) section

I have amended as below and will await the Minister's clearance.

38(1)(b) section

Minister for Children and Young People Natalie Don-Innes said:

“It is absolutely untrue to suggest the Scottish Government doesn’t take the shocking and abhorrent abuse of children seriously. We are fully aware of the devastating impacts such abuse has on victims and their families. That is why we formed the expert National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group which brings together key services and expert stakeholders including Police Scotland and Professor Alexis Jay to inform and strengthen our collective action against this horrendous form of abuse. It is uniquely positioned to assess current challenges and make informed recommendations to tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation.

“Police Scotland is actively reviewing investigations right now and we have also been clear that we are prepared to give every consideration to a grooming gangs inquiry if that is assessed as a necessity.

“Furthermore, the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry currently taking place is one of the widest ranging ever undertaken in Scotland and includes an extensive review of child protection policy and practice in Scotland. We would also expect any report of child abuse or exploitation made to police Scotland to be taken very seriously and all reports investigated.”

Background

Please find below a link to the letter the First Minister wrote to Joani Reid MP and published online in July 2025:

[UKG audit on group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse: First Minister’s response - gov.scot](#)

Please also find part of an answer to Russel Findlay during First Ministers questions below:

[Meeting of the Parliament: 11/09/2025 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Please also find answer from Angela Constance to an urgent question on this topic on October 28 2025:

[Meeting of the Parliament: 28/10/2025 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

38(1)(b) section
Senior Media Manager
Justice and Home Affairs
Desk: 38(1)(b) section
Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](#)

From: 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section > **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 07 November 2025 18:16

To: 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section >; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <section 38(1)(b)>; Kate Higgins <section 38(1)(b)>; Sean McGivern <[section 38\(1\)\(b\)](#)>; section 38(1)(b)

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

Sent: 07 November 2025 17:42

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024

<CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <section 38(1)(b)>; Kate Higgins

<section 38(1)(b)>; Sean McGivern <[section 38\(1\)\(b\)](mailto:section 38(1)(b)@gov.scot)>; section 38(1)(b) section

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Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice <ddcrpj@gov.scot>; section

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for Children and Families <DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; Anna

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

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Child Protection Mailbox <Child_Protection@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice

<dgej@gov.scot>; Iona Iona Colvin section 38(1)(b) Section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

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38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Communications Justice and Home Affairs

<CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; Communications Education &

Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; section 38(1)(b) section

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Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; section

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

38(1)(b)

Communications Justice and Home Affairs

<CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>;

Subject: For FM clearance- MEDIA query - Joani Reid comments/ grooming gangs - The Sun/ Daily Mail & Daily Express

Hello PO,

***For FM clearance given comments are directly about the First Minister
Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Minister for Children & Young People cc'd
for awareness***

The Sun/Daily Mail and Daily Express have all sought a right of reply to comments made by Joani Reid MP, following a GB News investigation into grooming gangs in Scotland.

She has said the First Minister and Ms Constance and “going out of their way to pretend” organised sexual abuse and exploitation are not a problem in Scotland and demanding an immediate full independent review of the issue.

Full details are below, along with a link to the investigation GB News did on the subject earlier this week.

To note, within GB News reporting they said “the Scottish Government said that a grooming inquiry was now “under review” The Daily Mail and Daily Express have asked if that signals a change of position and U-turn on our position to a grooming gangs inquiry.

Below are also the lines issued by Police Scotland in response for info.

Have agreed the below response with policy and SPADs, grateful for the FMs thoughts and clearance to issue?

SUGGESTED RESPONSE

Minister for Children and Young People, Natalie Don- Innes said:
section 29(1)(a) We are fully aware of the devastating impacts such abuse has on victims and their families. That is why we formed the expert National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group which brings together key services and expert stakeholders including Police Scotland and Professor Alexis Jay to inform and strengthen our collective action against this horrendous form of abuse. It is uniquely positioned to assess current challenges and make informed recommendations to tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation.

“Police Scotland is actively reviewing investigations right now and we have also been clear that we are prepared to give every consideration to a grooming gangs inquiry if that is assessed as a necessity.

“Furthermore, the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry currently taking place is one of the widest ranging ever undertaken in Scotland and includes an extensive review of child protection policy and practice in Scotland. We would also expect any report of child abuse or exploitation made to police Scotland to be taken very seriously and all reports investigated.”

Background

Please find below a link to the letter the First Minister wrote to Joani Reid MP and published online in July 2025:

[UKG audit on group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse: First Minister's response - gov.scot](#)

Please also find part of an answer to Russel Findlay during First Ministers questions below:

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Please also find answer from Angela Constance to an urgent question on this topic on October 28 2025:

[Meeting of the Parliament: 28/10/2025 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

QUERY

Good morning,

Could we have your right of reply to this release by Joani Reid MP please.

Thanks,

38(1)(b) section
Political Reporter
38(1)(b) section
38(1)(b) section

• **Please email comments by 5pm unless otherwise stated. Let me know if you intend to submit comments after 5pm to alert the evening editors of possible late changes to copy.**

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

From: 38(1)(b) section38(1)(b) section

Date: Fri, Nov 7, 2025 at 10:16 AM

Subject: NEWS FROM JOANI REID: Swinney and Constance exposed as complacent on sexual abuse

To: 38(1)(b) section38(1)(b) section

7 November 2025 For immediate use SWINNEY AND CONSTANCE EXPOSED AS COMPLACENT ON SEXUAL ABUSE - REID Joani Reid, Scottish Labour MP for East Kilbride and Strathaven, has today demanded immediate action on organised child abuse from the Scottish

7 November 2025

For immediate use

SWINNEY AND CONSTANCE EXPOSED AS COMPLACENT ON SEXUAL ABUSE - REID

Joani Reid, Scottish Labour MP for East Kilbride and Strathaven, has today demanded immediate action on organised child abuse from the Scottish Government in the face of yet more evidence of widespread cruel sexual exploitation north of the Border.

Following an investigation by GB News that concluded Police Scotland had failed to investigate alleged organised abuse of girls in care in Glasgow, Joani Reid said:

“The reports of this case are harrowing. They are further evidence that children and vulnerable women are being abused by organised groups of men in Scotland, just as they are in England.

“This case also exposes the complacency and at the top of the Scottish Government.;

“First Minister John Swinney and Justice Minister Angela Constance have gone out of their way to pretend that organised sexual abuse and exploitation of girls and young women are a problem in England but not Scotland.

“But the hard truth is clear. We do have a problem of serious organised child sexual abuse in Scotland, and we have a political establishment that is wilfully blind to it. They are determined to downplay each and every report of abuse and resist any and all steps towards an inquiry or to even having an independent review of case files.

“Mr Swinney and the rest of the SNP must immediately act to ensure we have a fully independent review of the problem of organised child sexual abuse in Scotland.”

Ends

Notes to editors: The GB News report can be seen here - [Grooming gangs: Police Scotland failed to investigate alleged Glasgow rape gang abuse](#)

POLICE SCOTLAND LINES

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: “A complaint about the police was received in September 2025. The complainer was spoken to and we confirmed information had been passed to us but, since no report was made to police in reference to any crime, this complaint did not fit the criteria as a complaint about the police.

“The complainer was advised she should make a report to police if she had been a victim of a crime. The complainer confirmed she was happy to have the complaint closed with this advice.”

Detective Superintendent Nicky McGovern said: “We take a multi-agency approach when dealing with child sexual exploitation.

“Information is shared between partners but this would not necessarily instigate an immediate investigation, as we would require the express consent of the potential victim before proceeding.

“We would urge anyone who has been a victim of child sexual exploitation to contact us, and they can be assured we will take their report seriously and they will be supported by specialist officers.”

Thanks,

38(1)(b) section

38(1)(b) section | **Media Manager | Communications Education |**

38(1)(b) section | **Scottish Government |** 38(1)(b) section

From: 38(1)(b) section

Sent: 12 November 2025 19:04

To: First Minister; 38(1)(b) section

Cc: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024

<CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <section 38(1)(b)>; Kate Higgins

Donald section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)
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Child Protection Mailbox <Child_Protection@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice
<dgej@gov.scot>; Iona Iona Colvin section 38(1)(b) Section 38(1)(b section 38(1)(b)
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Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; section 38(1)(b) section
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Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; section
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38(1)(b)
; First Minister FMQs
Subject: RE: For FM clearance- MEDIA QUERY- grooming gangs, letter to FM -
The Daily Record

Hi 38(1)(b) section
The FM is content with these lines being issued.

Thanks,

38(1)(b) section
38(1)(b) section Private Secretary to the First Minister
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday. Further details, including preferences, can be found [here](#).

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From 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section > **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 12 November 2025 17:31
To: 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024
<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024
<CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell < section 38(1)(b)>; Kate Higgins
< section 38(1)(b)>; Sean McGivern <[section 38\(1\)\(b\)](mailto:section 38(1)(b)@gov.scot)>; J section 38(1)(b) section
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38(1)(b)>; Anna Donald section 38(1)(b) Neil Rennick section 38(1)(b) Deputy
Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice <ddcrpj@gov.scot>; section
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for Children and Families <DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; Anna
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<dgej@gov.scot>; Iona Iona Colvin section 38(1)(b) Section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)
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38(1)(b)
>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For FM clearance- MEDIA QUERY- grooming gangs, letter to FM -
The Daily Record

Adding FMQ team for awareness

Many thanks,
38(1)(b) section

38(1)(b) section

**Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister
Office of the First Minister**

5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: 38(1)(b) section

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including preferences, can be found [here](#).

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From: 38(1)(b) section38(1)(b) section

Sent: 12 November 2025 17:26

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024

<CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell < section 38(1)(b)>; Kate Higgins

< section 38(1)(b)>; Sean McGivern <[section 38\(1\)\(b\)](mailto:section 38(1)(b)@gov.scot)>; J section 38(1)(b) section

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Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice <ddcrpj@gov.scot>; section

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<dgej@gov.scot>; Iona Iona Colvin section 38(1)(b) Section 38(1)(b section 38(1)(b)

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<CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; Communications Education &

Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; section 38(1)(b) section

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Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; 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: For FM clearance- MEDIA QUERY- grooming gangs, letter to FM - The Daily Record

Hello FMPO,

For First Minister clearance

Minister for Children, Young People & The Promise, Cab Sec Justice and Cab Sec Education cc'd for awareness

We have been approached by the Daily Record who are looking for a SG response to a letter sent to the First Minister by an alleged victim of a grooming gangs in Glasgow, who was featured in the GB News piece we responded to last week.

She is calling for a full inquiry to take place, full details are below for info, including the letter sent to the FM for info.

We have confirmed with policy and FMPO the letter has been received.

Also to note for info, below is a Police Scotland line on 'Taylor's' case.

Have agreed the below response with policy and SPADs, grateful for the FM's thoughts and clearance to issue?

SUGGESTED RESPONSE

Minister for Children and Young People Natalie Don-Innes said:

"I want to thank 'Taylor' for her courage to speak out on such an important subject, I am deeply saddened to hear of any cases of sexual abuse as I know the devastating impacts such abuse has on victims and their families and I expect any report of child abuse or exploitation made to Police Scotland to be taken very seriously and all reports investigated.

"The Scottish Government and its partners are taking action through the National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group which brings together key services and expert stakeholders including Police Scotland and Professor Alexis Jay to strengthen our collective approach against this horrendous form of abuse. The Scottish Government will give every consideration to the need for an independent public inquiry into the operation of "grooming gangs" in Scotland, should it be deemed necessary.

"Police Scotland is actively reviewing investigations right now and we have also been clear that we are prepared to give every consideration to a grooming gangs inquiry if that is assessed as a necessity.

"Furthermore, the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry currently taking place is one of the widest ranging ever undertaken in Scotland and includes an extensive review of the protection of children in care in Scotland."

Background

The National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group (CSAE) was established in 2024 to increase cross-sectoral coordination and capability to address the risks and harms of CSAE in Scotland by scrutinising existing and emerging evidence and practice to inform, prioritise and agree actions. This Group is taking forward work to better understand the scale of sexual harm towards children in Scotland as well as recommending improvements to workforce education and training. More information about the group as well as remit and minutes for the group can be found on the Scottish Government website: [National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/topics/child-protection/national-child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-strategic-group)

section 38(1)(b); Justice Analysts; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)
section 38(1)(b) Communications Education & Skills; Communications Justice and
Home Affairs; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024

Subject: RE: For Ministerial clearance- op-ed Joani Reid column- grooming
gangs - Herald

Thanks section 38(1)(b) Ms Constance is content.

Thanks
section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b)- Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and
Home Affairs – Angela Constance MSP
Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrews House, Regent Road,
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Tel: section 38(1)(b)| Mob: section 38(1)(b)| Email: CabSecforJHA@gov.scot

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terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: section 38(1)(b)

Sent: 25 September 2025 12:59

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 ; Minister for Children,
Young People and The Promise

Cc: First Minister ; Jeanette Campbell ; Kate Higgins ; Colin McAllister ; Sean
McGivern ; Ross Ingebrigtsen section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)
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for Children and Families ; Deputy Director for Children's Rights, Protection and
Justice ; Anna Donald ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section
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DG Education & Justice ; Section 38(1)(b) ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section
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38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Communications Education
& Skills ; Communications Justice and Home Affairs ; Cabinet Secretary for
Education & Skills 2024

Subject: RE: For Ministerial clearance- op-ed Joani Reid column- grooming gangs -
Herald

Thanks section 38(1)(b) have redrafted to reflect the Cab Secs thoughts, would be
grateful for a view on the below?

NATALIE DON-INNES, MINISTER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & THE PROMISE (HERALD OP-ED)

Protecting children from harm is a fundamental and absolute priority of the Scottish Government.

The sensitive topic of child abuse is one that normally would never be used for political gain. It is an area all those across politics can agree is abhorrent and needs constant action and vigilance and a united front.

However, in the last week there have been those trying to use it for cynical or political point scoring, dismissing the valuable and important work that is already underway to protect children in Scotland from harm right now.

Disagreement in how we drive forward change in legislation is part of the democratic process. But, some of the shocking and hateful comments that have been prevalent online following the passing of the Victims, Witnesses and Justice Reform Bill on 17 September is completely unacceptable. It is fundamental to our democracy that members of Parliament are able to perform their duties safely, without fear of threats or online abuse to them and their family. Those comments have been in relation to one aspect of the huge landmark bill.

Furthermore the misrepresentation by some political parties, in relation to that one aspect of the Bill, undermines the collective efforts already ongoing that will deliver benefits for children, young people and their families, now.

The amendment lodged by the Conservative that would extend the remit of the new Victims and Witnesses Commissioner to research child sexual exploitation was not, as it has been portrayed, introducing a 'grooming gangs inquiry'.

We did not agree with this amendment for a number of reasons. One is that the Victims and Witnesses Commissioner is a new role, literally only created in law last week, and that office now has to be set up and an individual recruited. It is also a role with a much wider scope than just child sexual abuse and exploitation, and whilst the Commissioner will bring invaluable expertise to the justice system, research into child sexual exploitation needs expertise and knowledge of the subject. Another reason is that this would cut into the work already underway in this area right now.

Any abuse and exploitation has devastating impacts on victims and their families, causing terrible trauma and suffering that can be life-long. Improving the experiences of victims and witnesses of child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE), many of whom have suffered horrific, unconscionable experiences before they have even begun to engage with the justice system, is therefore of utmost urgency.

Last year, we established the National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group 24. This Group brings together experts with relevant knowledge of the subject. This includes police, courts, academia and third-sector organisations working with

children and young people, and also Prof Alexis Jay, a previous chair of the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse in England and Wales.

This Group is working to identify the risks and harms of child sexual abuse and exploitation by considering previous cases, evidence and practices across social work, education, police and healthcare to prioritise and agree further actions and recommendations for national improvement and reform. For example, at their next meeting in October, the Group will consider a range of recommendations to workforce education and training that will better equip professionals to identify and respond when children are at risk or experiencing abuse.

This expert Group has also already considered the implications of the UK Government National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, conducted by Baroness Casey. While Police Scotland advises there are no current investigations involving offences against children and young people which could mirror the investigations into grooming gangs described in Baroness Casey's Audit, the Group will also shortly hear direct from Police Scotland about the results of their current review of historical and current cases of this nature.

In addition to this work, from the Group and Police Scotland, the current Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry includes an extensive review of child protection policy and practice in Scotland. All this is going on right now and leading to change right now. Research carried out by an individual to be recruited for a post yet to be created will not.

The landmark Victims, Witnesses and Justice reform Bill introduces historic reforms to the justice system that will place victims at the heart of the justice system. It has abolished the not proven verdict, created a Sexual Offences Court and a new role will be created - an independent Victims and Witnesses Commissioner.

It is disappointing to see such a significant and important piece of legislation for the people of Scotland, along with the work to protect the safety and lives of children, so wilfully disregarded.

Thanks,
section 38(1)(b)
section 38(1)(b) **Media Manager | Communications Education |**
section 38(1)(b) | **Scottish Government** | section 38(1)(b)

From: section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

Sent: 24 September 2025 18:21

To: J section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <section 38(1)(b)>; Kate Higgins <section 38(1)(b)> Colin McAllister <section 38(1)(b)>; Sean

McGivern section 38(1)(b)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen < section 38(1)(b)section 38(1)(b)
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Andrew Watson < section 38(1)(b)

Andrew Watson < section 38(1)(b)>; Ian Donaldson < section 38(1)(b)Director for
Children and Families <DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; Deputy Director
for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice <ddcrpj@gov.scot>; Anna

Donald < section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section
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<Child_Protection@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Section
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>; Justice Analysts 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)>; Communications Education &
Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Communications Justice
and Home Affairs <CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; Cabinet
Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Ministerial clearance- op-ed Joani Reid column- grooming gangs -
Herald

Hi section 38(1)(b)

section 30(c)

Thanks.

section 38(1)(b)Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
: Angela Constance MSP

M: section 38(1)(b)| E: CabSecforJHA@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road,
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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

Sent: 24 September 2025 15:54

To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <[J_section_38\(1\)\(b\)](mailto:J_section_38(1)(b)@gov.scot)>; Kate Higgins <section 38(1)(b)>; Colin McAllister <[section_38\(1\)\(b\)t](mailto:section_38(1)(b)t@gov.scot)>; Sean McGivern <section 38(1)(b)>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[section_38\(1\)\(b\)t](mailto:section_38(1)(b)t@gov.scot)>; section 38(1)(b)

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Andrew Watson <section 38(1)(b)>

>; Ian Donaldson <section 38(1)(b)>

Director for Children and Families

<DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; Deputy Director for Children's Rights,

Protection and Justice <ddcrpj@gov.scot>; Anna Donald <section 38(1)(b)>

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Child Protection Mailbox <Child_Protection@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice

<dgej@gov.scot>; Section 38(1)(b) <section 38(1)(b)>

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

Analysts <Justice_Analysts@gov.scot>; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section

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section 38(1)(b) Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and

Home Affairs <CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; Cabinet

Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>

Subject: For Ministerial clearance- op-ed Joani Reid column- grooming gangs - Herald

For Minister for Children & Young People and Cab Sec Justice to clear FM and Cab Sec Education cc'd for awareness

Hello PO,

section 29(1)(a)

Thanks,

section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b) | **Media Manager | Communications Education |**

section 38(1)(b) | **Scottish Government** section 38(1)(b)

From: section 38(1)(b) on behalf of Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Sent: 12 November 2025 18:19

To: section 38(1)(b) Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024; Minister for Higher and Further Education; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024; James O'Malley; Ian Donaldson; Anna Donald; Neil Rennick; Deputy Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Andrew Watson; Director for Children and Families; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Child Protection Mailbox; DG Education & Justice; Iona Colvin; Section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Justice Analysts; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Communications Justice and Home Affairs; Communications Education & Skills; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Kate Higgins; section 38(1)(b); Jeanette Campbell; Ross Ingebrigtsen; section 38(1)(b); Sean McGivern; section 38(1)(b)

Subject: RE: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW MEDIA QUERY- tools to protect children from grooming gangs - NSPCC NR - Daily Record & BBC

H section 38(1)(b)

Thanks very much for the updated lines below. Ms Don-Innes is content to clear.

Kind regards
section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b) **Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise – Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Mobile: section 38(1)(b) | Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

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From: section 38(1)(b)

Sent: 12 November 2025 18:02

To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 ; Minister for Higher and Further Education ; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Neil Rennick ; Deputy Director for Children's

Rights, Protection and Justice ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Andrew Watson ; Director for Children and Families ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Child Protection Mailbox ; DG Education & Justice ; Iona Colvin ; Section 38(1)(b) ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Justice Analysts ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) v section 38(1)(b) ; Communications Justice and Home Affairs ; Communications Education & Skills ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Kate Higgins ; section 38(1)(b) Jeanette Campbell ; Ross Ingebrigtsen ; section 38(1)(b); Sean McGivern ; section 38(1)(b)

Subject: RE: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW MEDIA QUERY- tools to protect children from grooming gangs - NSPCC NR - Daily Record & BBC

Apologies, after further consideration, we would propose deleting the final par of the quote as below - given the specific issue of “grooming gangs” is not raised in the enquiry.

Grateful if the amended version below could be put to the Minister,

Many thanks section 38(1)(b)

From: section 38(1)(b)

Sent: 12 November 2025 17:50

To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further

Education <MinisterHFE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; James O'Malley ; Ian Donaldson < section

38(1)(b) >; Anna Donald < section 38(1)(b) >; Neil Rennick section 38(1)(b) Deputy

Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice <ddcrpj@gov.scot>; 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) section 38(1)(b) >; Andrew Watson section

38(1)(b) >; Director for Children and Families

<DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

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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) Child Protection Mailbox

<Child_Protection@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Iona

Colvin < 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) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Justice Analysts

<Justice_Analysts@gov.scot>; 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) section 38(1)(b)

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

Justice and Home Affairs <CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>;

Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot>; 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)

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

section 38(1)(b) Kate Higgins < section 38(1)(b) >; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

Jeanette Campbell < section 38(1)(b) >; Ross Ingebrigtsen < section 38(1)(b) >; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) >; Sean McGivern < section 38(1)(b) >; section 38(1)(b) < section 38(1)(b)

Subject: FOR MINISTERIAL VIEW MEDIA QUERY- tools to protect children from grooming gangs - NSPCC NR - Daily Record & BBC

PO/Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise,

The Daily Record and BBC have approached us for comment on a NSPCC news release (see below) which details tools which can be used to keep children safe from grooming gangs online.

section 30(c)

Many thanks section 38(1)(b)

SUGGESTED RESPONSE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Keeping young people safe online is of paramount importance. While regulation of the internet is reserved, the Scottish Government has engaged with the UK Government to strengthen protections for children in its Online Safety Act. We will continue to work with UK Government and Ofcom on its implementation to help keep children and young people safe online.

“The Scottish Government and its partners are taking action through the National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group which brings together key services and expert stakeholders including Police Scotland and Professor Alexis Jay to strengthen our collective approach against this horrendous form of abuse, including online harm.

section 30(c)

Background

Ofcom is the regulator for online safety in the UK, under the [Online Safety Act](#). Under the Act, services that are likely to be accessed by children have duties to protect them online. Ofcom published its [Protection of Children Codes of Practice](#) in July this year. Providers are now required to comply with the measures set out in the Codes to protect child users from content that is harmful to them. If companies fail to meet them, Ofcom can take enforcement action, which may include issuing fines.

QUERY

I'm getting in touch regarding the attached press release. We're looking for a response from the Scottish Government to this, please.

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

Subject: RE: Sensitive - Immediate - Information required for FM
FMPO/ MPO

National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group – papers and reports

OUT OF SCOPE

- Following Alexis Jay and CELCIS presentations on mandatory reporting (MR), Group considered implications for workforce and wider system.

OUT OF SCOPE

Thanks,

section 38(1)(b)

From: section 38(1)(b) on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
2024

Sent: 14 October 2025 13:00

To: section 38(1)(b) Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024;
Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024; Minister for Victims and
Community Safety 2024; section 38(1)(b) Andrew Watson section 38(1)(b) Deputy
Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice; Jeanette Campbell; Iona
Colvin; Section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Director of
Justice; Anna Donald; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

Subject: RE: VWJR Bill - CSAE amendment - correspondence from Alexis Jay

section 38(1)(b) Ms Constance has noted and would appreciate an update following
the meeting.

Thanks,

section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) - Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for
Justice and Home Affairs – Angela Constance MSP

Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrews House, Regent Road,
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

Tel: section 38(1)(b) | Mob: section 38(1)(b) | Email: CabSecforJHA@gov.scot

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terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: section 38(1)(b)

Sent: 07 October 2025 15:27

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 ; Minister for Children,
Young People and The Promise

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 ; Minister for Victims and
Community Safety 2024 ; section 38(1)(b) Andrew Watson ; section 38(1)(b) ;
Deputy Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice ; Jeanette Campbell ;
Iona Colvin ; Section 38(1)(b ; section 38(1)(b section 38(1)(b)) section

38(1)(b); Director of Justice ; Anna Donald ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)
Subject: FW: VWJR Bill - CSAE amendment - correspondence from Alexis Jay

MPOs

I'm providing an update on the correspondence received from Professor Alexis Jay following the debate in Parliament on the Victims Bill (attached). We have been in direct contact with Alexis on this issue (there has been a section 38(1)(b)

She has confirmed that she is content with the following approach:

- At the next meeting of the National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) Strategic Group – of which Alexis is a member - the Chair will provide a clarification which highlights the main points of the letter and clarify Alexis' position.
- This will put her position on the public record as the minute of the meeting is published on the SG website.
- The meeting is taking place tomorrow, 8 Oct – full Agenda is attached for reference and Ministers will be provided with a rapid readout of the meeting ahead of the formal minute.
- Alexis is content that further correspondence is not required from Ministers on this issue.

It should be noted that Alexis will also be lending her expertise to the Group as part of its substantive discussions on mandatory reporting, and will provide a preface setting out her view of the UKG approach to this issue and the key issues the Group should focus discussion on. We are also involved in discussions with Alexis on options for scrutiny of local approaches and responses to CSAE, which she is keen to support us with as part of our ongoing response to the Casey Audit.

Best wishes,
section 38(1)(b)

From: Constance A (Angela), MSP <Angela.Constance.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 26 September 2025 17:07

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024
<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>

Subject: Fw: Liam Kerr's amendment

Ministerial correspondence

section 38(1)(b) <hr size=1 width="98%" align=center>

From: Alexis Jay <section 38(1)(b)>

Sent: 26 September 2025 16:51

To: Constance A (Angela), MSP <section 38(1)(b)>

Subject: Liam Kerr's amendment

Sent from my iPad

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From: section 38(1)(b) on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

Sent: 18 November 2025 20:12

To: section 38(1)(b)

Cc: Communications Justice and Home Affairs; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Director for Children and Families; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Ian Donaldson; Anna Donald; Neil Rennick; Deputy Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Andrew Watson; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Child Protection Mailbox; DG Education & Justice; Iona Colvin; Section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Justice Analysts; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Jeanette Campbell; Kate Higgins; section 38(1)(b) Sean McGivern; Ross Ingebrigtsen; Jack Middleton

Subject: Re: To clear - Daily Record/Herald stories on child abuse inquiries

Hi section 38(1)(b)

Ms Constance is content.

Many thanks
section 38(1)(b)

From: section 38(1)(b)

Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 7:13:19 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

Cc: Communications Justice and Home Affairs ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Communications Education & Skills ; section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b); Director for Children and Families ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Ian Donaldson ; Anna Donald ; Neil Rennick ; Deputy Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Andrew Watson ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Child Protection Mailbox ; DG Education & Justice ; Iona Colvin ; Section 38(1)(b ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Justice Analysts ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Jeanette Campbell ; Kate Higgins section 38(1)(b) Sean McGivern ; Ross Ingebrigtsen ; section 38(1)(b)

Subject: To clear - Daily Record/Herald stories on child abuse inquiries

Cab Sec PO,

The Herald and Daily Record are doing a story on the back of the October meeting of the CSAE strategic group minutes being published. The minutes offer clarification on comments made by Ms Constance in the chamber about child abuse inquiries during the VWJR Bill – to see the below.

of excuses and have tried to deploy Professor Jay as a human shield, but very plainly she does not agree with their position - or else they would not have to apologise to her in this way.

"Enough is enough - it is time we had a proper review of the evidence on child abuse in Scotland."

Daily Record query

In September, during a debate on a Bill to improve the justice system for victims, Angela Constance said Professor Alexis Jay did not want further inquiries into child sexual abuse.

She said at the time: "She shares my view and has put on the record and stated to the media that she does not support further inquiries into child sexual abuse and exploitation, given the significant time and resource already spent in the review that she led, the Casey audit and other reviews.

But the October minute of the SNP Government's National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategic Group, which Jay is a member of, states:

"During the debate on the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill in Parliament on 16 September, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice quoted the views of Professor Alexis Jay on calls for further inquiries into child sexual abuse.

"Co-chair clarified that Professor Jay shared these views in January of this year in the context of her work on the Independent Inquiry in England and Wales and was not related to the debate on the Victims Bill or the position in Scotland."

Will the Justice Secretary apologise?

section 38(1)(b) | **Senior Media Manager**

Social Justice portfolio|Scottish Government

section 38(1)(b)

From: section 38(1)(b)

Sent: 24 October 2025 13:33

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024; section 38(1)(b) Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024; section 38(1)(b) Andrew Watson; Deputy Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice; Jeanette Campbell; Iona Colvin; Section 38(1)(b); section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b); Director of Justice; Anna Donald; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

Subject: RE: VWJR Bill - CSAE amendment - correspondence from Alexis Jay - CSAE update following recent meetings

Attachments: CSAE Group - Co-chairs meeting with Ms Brown and Ms Don-Innes - 1 October 2025.docx; National CSAE Group - Minute - 8 October 2025.docx

MPOS,

Please find attached the Minute for the Meeting with Ms Brown and Ms Don-Innes and co chairs of CSAE Meeting on 1 October and the Minute from the National CSAE group meeting on 8 October.

These minutes will provide an update on latest position as requested by Ms Constance. Please find below a summary of key points from both meetings:

Meeting with CSAE group co-chairs on 1 October

- Co-chair Iona Colvin updated on priorities for the group, which includes data and workforce confidence and skills and the next meeting of the CSAE group (8 October) will be focused Mandatory Reporting
- Co-chair Sarah Taylor provided a Police Scotland update on the challenges of capturing CSAE data across public protection systems and Police Scotland are working with the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) to understand the NPCC's group-based methodology investigation to inform the Scottish Police investigation.
- There was a discussion around a need to have an effective information sharing system – with local inter-agency referral discussions (IRD) an effective basis to look at opportunities for improvements.
- Compared to UK, Scotland benefits from all agencies following national guidance, however there are concerns around national consistency. The national IRD training rolled out in the next 3 months will drive consistency.
- Police Scotland group-based investigation will be working at pace following engagement with NPCC – it was noted their data only goes back to 2013 when Police Scotland was formed.
- UKG are developing a Child Protection Agency to create consistency of service provision and training, this work is underway in Scotland through the CSAE Group workforce deep dive sub-group and a CSAE data roundtable.
- Iona advised that work is underway to consider alternatives to a national inquiry into group-based child sexual abuse, with discussions held with Professor Alexis Jay including potential survey work and exploration of local case-files.

National CSAE group meeting on 8 October

- Co-chair provided a clarification that Professor Alexis Jay on calls for further inquiries into child sexual abuse referenced in the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill debate were in the context of her work on the Independent Inquiry in England and Wales and was not related to the debate on the Victims Bill or the position in Scotland.
- Police Scotland provided an update on their investigation into group-based abuse in Scotland – concluding that there were no current large-scale investigations known to Police Scotland that meet the definition of group-based abuse as outlined in Baroness Casey' audit in England and Wales. Work was underway to carry out a self assessment across seven thematic areas: victims and survivors; data analysis; investigations; training and development; partnerships; disruption; and investigative resources. Police Scotland advised that work was also underway to align Police Scotland recording systems to capture ethnicity data for suspects.
- Co-chairs updated the group on work to look at alternatives to an inquiry and will engage with the group, local leaders and survivors as options are developed. It was agreed an extraordinary meeting would be held in November to discuss this – meeting will be on 25 November.
- SG's Chief Statistician updated on the CSAE data roundtable and the challenges sharing and gathering data. Members welcomed data being a priority for the group and several offered to share their data sources as the work progressed.

- The Workforce Deep Dive group provided an update on work of the group over the summer, with agreement from the group to become a permanent sub-group rather than a short term group, and for the group to start work on focus groups to engage practitioners.
- There was general consensus across the CSAE Group in support of some form of Mandatory Reporting in the context of CSAE, although two partners were more cautious. There were issues raised around sufficient training of the workforce and unintended consequences to workforce behaviour and recruitment. Scottish Government representatives highlighted that further work will be carried out to develop models from existing IICSA and UK Government models for the CSAE Group to consider key issues. The Co-chair proposed setting up a task and finish group to develop options for the CSAE Group's consideration. This was agreed by the Group.

Regards,

section 38(1)(b) **Senior Policy Adviser**
Child Protection Unit, Protection and Justice Division
Children and Families Directorate, Scottish Government

From: section 38(1)(b) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

Sent: 14 October 2025 13:00

To: section 38(1)(b); Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 ; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 ; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 ; section 38(1)(b); Andrew Watson ; section 38(1)(b); Deputy Director for Children's Rights, Protection and Justice ; Jeanette Campbell ; Iona Colvin ; Section 38(1)(b ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) ; Director of Justice ; Anna Donald ; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b)

Subject: RE: VWJR Bill - CSAE amendment - correspondence from Alexis Jay

section 38(1)(b)

Ms Constance has noted and would appreciate an update following the meeting.

Thanks,

section 38(1)(b)

section 38(1)(b) - Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs – Angela Constance MSP

Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrews House, Regent Road,
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

Tel: section 38(1)(b) | Mob: section 38(1)(b) | Email: CabSecforJHA@gov.scot

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From: section 38(1)(b)

Sent: 07 October 2025 15:27

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024

<CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024

<MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Andrew

Watson < section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Deputy Director for

Children's Rights, Protection and Justice <ddcrpj@gov.scot>; Jeanette

Campbell < section 38(1)(b) Iona Colvin < 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) section

38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) Director of Justice <DirectorofJustice@gov.scot>; Anna

Donald < section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section 38(1)(b) section

38(1)(b)

Subject: FW: VWJR Bill - CSAE amendment - correspondence from Alexis Jay

MPOs

I'm providing an update on the correspondence received from Professor Alexis Jay following the debate in Parliament on the Victims Bill (attached). We have been in direct contact with Alexis on this issue section 38(1)(b).

She has confirmed that she is content with the following approach:

- At the next meeting of the National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) Strategic Group – of which Alexis is a member - the Chair will provide a clarification which highlights the main points of the letter and clarify Alexis' position.
- This will put her position on the public record as the minute of the meeting is published on the SG website.
- The meeting is taking place tomorrow, 8 Oct – full Agenda is attached for reference and Ministers will be provided with a rapid readout of the meeting ahead of the formal minute.
- Alexis is content that further correspondence is not required from Ministers on this issue.

It should be noted that Alexis will also be lending her expertise to the Group as part of its substantive discussions on mandatory reporting, and will provide a preface setting out her view of the UKG approach to this issue and the key issues the Group should focus discussion on. We are also involved in discussions with Alexis on options for scrutiny of local approaches and responses to CSAE, which she is keen to support us with as part of our ongoing response to the Casey Audit.

Best wishes,
section 38(1)(b)

From: Constance A (Angela), MSP <Angela.Constance.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 26 September 2025 17:07
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024
<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>
Subject: Fw: Liam Kerr's amendment

Ministerial correspondence

section 38(1)(b)

From: Alexis Jay <section 38(1)(b)>
Sent: 26 September 2025 16:51
To: Constance A (Angela), MSP <section 38(1)(b)>
Subject: Liam Kerr's amendment

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