

From: [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 02 February 2026 09:00
To: Central Correspondence Unit [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]
Subject: FW: PCS Union Scottish Executive Committee - opposition to Ash Regan's Proposed Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill

[Section 29(1)(b) – Ministerial communications]

From: [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)] On Behalf Of Swinney J (John), MSP
Sent: 30 January 2026 19:19
To: First Minister
Subject: FW: PCS Union Scottish Executive Committee - opposition to Ash Regan's Proposed Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill

[Section 29(1)(b) – Ministerial communications]

From: [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]
Sent: 30 January 2026 16:35
To: Swinney J (John), MSP [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]
Subject: PCS Union Scottish Executive Committee - opposition to Ash Regan's Proposed Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill

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Dear First Minister

I am writing on behalf of the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union Scottish Executive Committee, that represents Scottish civil servants and public sector workers **to ask you to oppose the progression** of Ash Regan's Prostitution Bill to Stage 2. We have democratically agreed policy to campaign in support of the full decriminalisation of sex work, which includes our opposition to criminalising the sale of sexual services, which this Bill intends to bring into Scottish law.

As a trade union, one of our key concerns with this Bill is the safety of sex workers. We understand from reading the Justice Committee's report that the main reason why SNP members of the Committee recommended the Bill not progress to Stage 2 is that they believe the Bill will put the safety of those workers at far greater risk that they are currently in. The Committee's report quoted the section from our submission which summarises our concerns and goes into further detail outlining our position:

'Criminalising the purchasing of sexual acts or services pushes workers into working conditions that are more dangerous or precarious, such as working alone or outdoors. It also disincentivises workers from reporting exploitative working conditions and practices, as well as any instances of illegal activity if they witness it (such as sexual violence or human trafficking). By criminalising activity related to sex work, workers are limited in their ability to organise effectively or lead calls for how workplace reform should be carried out to address illegal practices.'

We would ask that all SNP MSPs please make sure to read the [report's summary findings](#) ahead of the debate and vote on the Bill on 3 February. We believe a vote in support of this Bill will further marginalise and endanger those it wishes to help, and is not in line with international consensus on how to legislate around sex work and workers in the industry.

Yours sincerely

[Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]

Dear John,

We write to you as the people who will be most affected by Ash Regan's Bill to criminalise the purchase of sex, to plead with you not to vote for this dangerous proposed legislation at the Stage 1 vote on February 3rd.

Our most urgent concern in all of this is our safety. There is significant evidence from Amnesty International, the World Health Organisation, and the vast majority of academic research in the area that criminalising the purchase of sex makes it much harder for women to work safely. If a client is concerned that they will be arrested, they will be far less likely to give sex workers identifying information - which is a crucial part of keeping us safe.

If this Bill were to pass, women selling sex would face more violence. In every country where this legislation has been implemented, violence against women selling sex has drastically increased. In Northern Ireland, rates of violence rose by a horrifying 225%. We must not implement this failed legislative model in Scotland.

The proposed legislation also does nothing to address one of the most dangerous parts of our work. Currently, it is illegal to work in the same indoor location as another sex worker. This means we have to work alone, without the safety of our friends there if a client becomes threatening. It's scandalous that current laws force sex workers to work in more dangerous conditions, and outrageous that this Bill would maintain this law.

The majority of people who sell sex are women. It is far from "anti-women" to want sex workers to experience less violence, to have safer working conditions, and for them to be able to access support more easily. As a group made up largely of women, and with all of our members being feminists, it is shocking and offensive to see our concerns dismissed in this way, when we are the ones who will face the devastating repercussions of this Bill.

We have the same concerns as any other women. One of the leading reasons why women enter sex work is poverty. We need to pay our rent. We need to pay our bills. We need to buy food. We need to support our families. By making our work less safe, and making it harder to advocate for our own rights, we are pushed further into the

conditions that brought us to sex work in the first place. This Bill does nothing to support us and everything to harm us.

The Bill must fall. There is nothing about it that can be changed at later stages that would minimise the harm it will do to sex workers. You cannot amend a Bill that will inevitably increase violence against women.

From: [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]
Sent: 15 January 2026 13:28
To: First Minister [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]
Cc: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]

Subject: RE: Report and Support for The Prostitution Bill

Thanks [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)], much appreciated. I think this is on it's way to me via the Mibase system, but thanks for letting me know.

Kind regards,

[Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]

From: [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)] On Behalf Of First Minister
Sent: 15 January 2026 11:50
To: [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]
Cc: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 ; [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]
Subject: FW: Report and Support for The Prostitution Bill

From: [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]
Sent: 15 January 2026 10:04
To: [Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)]
Subject: Report and Support for The Prostitution Bill

Scotland Must Act: SWC Report confirms that Prostitution Is Violence Against Women and Girls

The Scottish Women's Convention, the advocacy group for women across Scotland, has today published a report attached in support of the Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill whose critical stage One vote is due to take place over the coming days.

[Section 38(1)(b) (Personal Information)] SWC Chair stated:

“Scotland stands at a decisive point as the Scottish Parliament considers legislation to address prostitution as a form of violence against women and girls. Our report reflects the voices of women in Scotland, particularly those with lived experience, who have been ignored for far too long.

“Over the past several months, we have held extensive discussions with women who have been exploited through prostitution and their voices have reinforced what we already believed from our previous work on misogyny, trafficking and domestic abuse in that prostitution can never be seen as a neutral transaction, it is rooted in coercion, inequality, poverty, and male violence.

“As we have listened to these women, one message is abundantly clear: prostitution is not empowering, it is deeply damaging and traumatising. These are not isolated stories but are the reality of an industry built on inequality.

The Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill, introduced by Ash Regan MSP, recognises prostitution as a systemic form of violence against women and girls and seeks to shift the burden of criminality away from women involved in prostitution while holding sex buyers accountable under the Nordic Model.

“This is not about morality, it is about human rights. You cannot separate prostitution from violence when women and girls are being abused and degraded to satisfy male demand. Scotland has a responsibility to say clearly, and without hesitation, that women are not for sale.

Women with lived experience have repeatedly spoken about entering prostitution as minors, or under pressure from abuse, homelessness, addiction, and poverty. Their voices expose the myth of ‘choice’ and political action is desperately needed to shape legislation and make Scotland a safer place for them.

“We cannot keep pretending that this is a matter of choice when girls are being groomed and women are being exploited. If Scotland is serious about its repeated commitments to CEDAW and its own Violence against Women and Girls strategy, then we must confront prostitution as part of that violence, not make excuses for it.

Supporters of the Bill stress that meaningful change requires investment in exit services, trauma-informed support, housing, and healthcare, alongside a legal framework that challenges demand.

“This proposed Bill is a line in the sand and is a direct test of whether our elected representatives are serious about honouring their commitments to end violence against women and girls in Scotland.

“Scotland can choose to stand with women, or it can continue to protect an industry that depends on abusing them for male pleasure. We urge MSPs to listen to women, believe their experiences, and to support this Bill.”

Kind Regards,