

## FOI 202600508387: ANNEX A: Release 1 of 3

### Item 1

#### **Resources prepared by the Scottish Government to raise awareness and provide information about the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019:**

Information about the Act on gov.scot.

Information about the Act on mygov.scot

A dedicated page about the Act on ParentClub

The publication of a news release

Social media activity:

- The ParentClub Instagram account - post on the Act

- The ParentClub Facebook account - post on the Act

- Scottish Government education tweet about the Act

- Scottish Government tweet about the Act

The creation and publication of promotional materials about the Act for parents and carers, and for children and young people

The publication of an Easy Read factsheet about the Act

Writing to organisations, including local authorities and health boards, with information about the Act:

- May 2020 letter

- October 2020 letter and framework document

Arranged for information about the Act to be included in Ready Steady Baby

The Scottish Government has run a marketing campaign which promotes positive parenting. This can be seen on the ParentClub website.

## Item 2

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 31 January 2025 12:05

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)].McKee; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk

**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@dumgal.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** Equal Protection Implementation Group meeting in March - AGENDA

**Attachments:** Implementation Group meeting - AGENDA - March 2025.docx

### Equal Protection Implementation Group members

Please see attached agenda for our next meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> March.

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | Justice Directorate | Civil Law and Legal System | Family Law  
GW-15 | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

## CHILDREN (EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019

### Implementation Group meeting agenda

**5 March 2025 10:00 am – 11:00 am**

Introductions.

Updates from the bodies represented at the Group.

Outcomes from the focus groups

Further work on public awareness.

Any other business.

Scottish Government  
March 2025

### Item 3

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org>  
**Sent:** 17 February 2025 14:38  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@dumgal.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: Equal Protection - any further work to improve implementation

Thanks [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], this has captured the key points I had noted.

Best wishes,

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
Protecting Children Policy and Practice Advisor  
**Social Work Scotland**

Mobile no: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Social Work Scotland, [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[www.socialworkscotland.org](http://www.socialworkscotland.org) | [@socworkscot](https://twitter.com/socworkscot)

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**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 12 February 2025 16:33  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@dumgal.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Equal Protection - any further work to improve implementation

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Many thanks for your time today. I attach below a brief note on points which we could take forward and discuss at the next meeting of the Equal Protection Implementation Group on 5 March. Please let me know if I have got anything wrong or missed anything – [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] and [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] are welcome to comment too.

Points are:

- The Focus Groups said it would be useful to have a colleague from Education on the Implementation Group [I'll discuss that with an education colleague].
- When the public messaging is refreshed (eg to remove references to the legislation being "new"), we should also mention key principles such as children's rights; negative impact of physical punishment; positive parenting etc.
- In public messaging, we need to consider needs of persons in Scotland who may have come from elsewhere or have different cultures: this could include people from Ukraine; persons from elsewhere in the UK; minority ethnic groups etc. I noted we could speak to minority ethnic support groups on Equal Protection
- It would be helpful to provide some messaging to Social Work colleagues too. This also could outline key principles and could "join up the dots" with other areas: UNCRC; Care and Justice Act; ACR; review of section 12 of the 1937 Act etc
  - Consistency remained an issue but may be hard to tackle.
- There were lessons from implementation (eg SG need to have early conversations with key organisations on what any legislation would do and what it would mean in practice] which could be relevant for other areas.

Finally, we'll send you a separate email on having a discussion on child contact cases and the civil/criminal interface in relation to domestic abuse.

Please shout if I've missed anything/got anything wrong.

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
Family Law Policy  
Scottish Government  
[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

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**Item 4**

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 29 June 2023 08:27  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)])  
**Subject:** FW: Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 briefing paper

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 28 June 2023 13:45  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 briefing paper

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

I thought that I had replied. I made reference to the paper at a Directors' Drop in and sent the paper out to afterwards.

Regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
Sent from my iPhone

On 28 Jun 2023, at 11:36, [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot wrote:

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

I am contacting you to follow up on my previous email and ask if you had chance to consider the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 briefing paper and if it would be useful for us to have a meeting to discuss.

I've enclosed the paper in this email for your reference.

Kind Regards,  
[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
Scottish Government | Justice Directorate | Civil Law and Legal System | Family Law  
GW-15 | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

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<Equal Protection\_ briefing paper for Association of Directors of Education in Scotland.docx>

## Item 5

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 22 October 2020 15:36  
**To:** '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]'  
**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@barnardos.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@childreninscotland.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]); [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: Changes to equal protection webpages

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Many thanks for your time earlier today.

I thought it might be helpful if I just sent a quick follow-up email covering the points in your message below:

### **Multi-agency guidance**

We have prepared a draft and will be circulating this to the implementation group ahead of the meeting on Tuesday next week. We will also be circulated the updated implementation plan along with this, the Easy Read factsheet which you've seen and draft guidance for mygov.scot.

### **Implementation Group**

This is scheduled for 2-330pm on Tuesday 27 October

### **Blog**

Many thanks for the update on where things are with this. In terms of hosting, we'd suggest that this go on your website. Ultimately this is your work and we haven't contributed to it, so it seems right that it should be published with you. In addition, I can see the benefit in positive messaging on the Act being located in a variety of area, and publishing on your website would support that. Once this is up, perhaps we can see about creating links to it within the Equal Protection content on the SG website? Let me know what you think.

### **Easy Read factsheet**

I can confirm that the draft now states "Children 1<sup>st</sup> Parentline".

### **ParentClub campaign**

As you know, I've highlighted your concerns to colleagues in marketing, and drawn their attention to the press coverage today. I will let you know what comes of this.

### **Comms approach**

This is on the agenda for the implementation group meeting, which will be circulated alongside the multi-agency guidance, implementation plan and Easy Read factsheet.

I hope this covers everything satisfactorily for the moment, but please let me know if you have any questions.

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Family Law | Scottish Government | Civil Law and Legal System Division

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>

**Sent:** 20 October 2020 10:02

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@barnardos.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@childreninscotland.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Changes to equal protection webpages

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)],

Thanks for your messages- I'm aware that there have been a few emails, so I thought it might be helpful to respond to everything at the same time. I hope that makes sense. Here are some responses from us based on what we have been discussing- happy to chat over the phone as well if that would be helpful.

From the below we are aware that there is lots of ongoing activity at the moment, which is really positive. However, we are picking up from partners that there are some remaining areas prior to implementation that require urgent clarity in order to provide the clear, calm messaging and enactment we agreed would be most appropriate as the Act is implemented. Of course you will be aware that over last weekend the media coverage continued and is now veering very much into the 'state intervention' / 'named person' territory. We are really very keen to continue to provide support to ensure that factual, accurate information is provided and that families feel supported rather than overwhelmed as the Act is brought into force.

**Multi- agency guidance:** Thanks for keeping us in the loop about this. It sounds like a sensible approach and we will be glad to see the guidance when it is ready. As you know, in March (and subsequently when we have been talking) Children 1st raised concerns about the need for clarity around support for families, police discretion, options for diversion from prosecution, monitoring and links to other Scottish Government work relating to family support and children's rights. We are keen to see the guidance to see how these issues have been resolved and would also welcome sight of the latest draft of the Implementation Plan, which I think you were planning on revising. Will this be sent round shortly? We are still working on our guidance for family support workers but should be able to share that very shortly and, as you say, we are confident that this will tie well into the guidance that you are working on.

**Implementation Group meeting:** Thanks, yes great to see that an implementation group meeting is being planned. Do we have a date for this now?

**Blogs:** Our Children 1st blog is nearly ready to share. I don't think we ever discussed whether the blogs would be hosted on the Children 1st website or on the Scottish Government website? Unfortunately, Social Work Scotland have advised that they are no longer able to provide one at the moment.

**Easy Read factsheet:** Thanks for the opportunity to provide comments. We would be grateful if reference to 'Parent Line' could please be amended to 'Children 1st Parentline' (thanks very much for including the service). Where it says 'this change in the law is about making things better for children' we suggest it might be more helpful to say 'this change is about keeping children safe and helping families find other ways of disciplining children'.

**Parent Club campaign:** Although we understand your comments about the focus groups ‘switching off when new laws are referred to’ and the tone of Parent Club, we remain concerned that there is still a need to fulfil the awareness- raising duty in the Act in terms of letting parents know about the law change. The pages on Parent Club look great but are quite subtle. We wondered about having a ‘top article’ on equal protection as an initial start? We would be happy to assist in drafting something if that would be helpful. Additionally, thanks for your other email about speaking to [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] and [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] when they are back from leave- that sounds like a good idea, if you were able to help set something up.

**Comms approach:** Thank you for adding this to the agenda for the implementation group meeting. As above, we note that there continued to be newspaper articles and letters this weekend in addition to those of last weekend, so it would be good to really ensure we have a clear and comprehensive plan that includes all members of the implementation group. This week Children 1st is planning to reshare some factual materials about the Act, the research and the impact that we shared as the Bill was going through. We’ll also share Professor Sutherland’s article in the Journal of the Law Society—thank you for sharing, it looks great!

Hope this helps- lots of work to do!

Best wishes,

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 16 October 2020 13:44

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>

**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@barnardos.org.uk;

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>; [Redacted -

S.38(1)(b)]@childreninscotland.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Changes to equal protection webpages

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Thank you for your patience in awaiting a reply to this email.

We’re very grateful to you for the offer of support in terms of reviewing draft web content etc. As you say, it’s important to try to ensure consistency on messaging on this Act.

We’re also grateful for the comments you’ve provided on the web content, and we’re giving them some thought and will come back to you with comments. I can confirm that I’ve also changed the Q&A information and this will be re-circulated. We also intend to put guidance on mygov.scot and we’ll be ensuring that this lines up with messaging elsewhere.

It’s interesting to see the comment from [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] about who children can turn to for help in the posters we prepared. This really is the trickiest aspect of the guidance.

Our aim here is to ensure that children know how to access support in the majority – if not all - of situations: eg if they just have a question, they just want a chat about it generally, or they want to mention a particular act. While of course we want all children to be able to turn to their parents for support, we were concerned about directing a child to the person who might have physically punished them, as well as the prospect of child being caught

between two parents – one who has smacked them, the other who might have opposed that act. We'd welcome any further thoughts [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] (or you) have on this. |

That's really useful to know about the blogs; I shall look forward to reading them when they go live. |

I'm not sure if you will have seen this article in the Journal of the Law Society of Scotland: <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/members/journal/issues/vol-65-issue-10/skelping-away/>. One aspect of our implementation work was articles in specialist journals, and this is a consequence of that. (We hope you appreciate the title as much as we did.) |

On the implementation group, as you know I've sent out an email and will send out further details once they're finalised. It is a good idea to have a meeting before commencement, so thank you for that little nudge. |

I'll include comms in the run-up to 7 November in the agenda for the implementation group meeting. |

I also wanted to bring to your attention the ongoing work on the statement of principles for social work. We spoke to colleagues from social work, police, the Crown and health yesterday afternoon. In that call, we agreed to take a different approach: rather than a statement of principles specifically for social work, we will draft guidance that can inform approaches for multiple professional bodies (health, social work etc). One point which came up repeatedly in yesterday's discussion is the difficulty of striking the right balance in guidance when the Act doesn't intend to criminalise parents but does nonetheless make physical punishment unlawful (this is less relevant to police and the Crown who have a slightly different role to play in terms of delivering the Act). I've prepared a draft and we intend to circulate this next week. I'm aware that you're preparing guidance for Children 1<sup>st</sup> and we'll sight you on this draft to make sure that we're all on the same page. |

Finally, given your kind offer of support in implementation tasks, I would welcome your comments on the attached draft Easy Read version of the factsheet we prepared for adults. This includes comments from People First Scotland's Parents' Group, and we've also had comments from People First Scotland themselves and the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability. We are seeking to finalise a version fairly quickly so I'd be grateful for any comment at your earliest convenience. |

As ever, I'm happy to chat about the above, and I hope you enjoy your weekend when it comes. |

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] |

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] |

Family Law | Scottish Government | Civil Law and Legal System Division |

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>

**Sent:** 14 October 2020 11:35

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@barnardos.org.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>

S.38(1)(b)]@childreninscotland.org.uk>

**Subject:** Changes to equal protection webpages

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)],

Good to talk yesterday, thanks for taking our concerns into account and for making changes to the webpages so quickly. We are really very happy to provide comment or assistance before webpages etc go live as we have with previous documents, if that would be helpful. As you are too, we are keen to ensure that the flow of information is in line with our discussed comms approach so as not to unintentionally alarm parents and carers!

As promised, we have attached here some further suggested changes to the webpages for your consideration. I'm copying in [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] from the Children's Commissioner's office here so that she can see as I know that you have also been discussing this with the Commissioner. Can I just check that you also intend to change the Q&A information that was sent out with the circular last week?

I also wanted to pass on comments from Barnardo's Scotland ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] is copied in here) who asked me to reflect that under the heading 'who can I talk to about this?' it makes no mention of parents/ carers as a source of help.

Regarding the blogs, we have a draft which should be with you shortly and I've also chased up SYP and Social Work Scotland so will let you know when we receive theirs.

Following on from the media interest I wonder if it would now be a good idea to reconvene the Implementation Group ahead of commencement? It feels like a good opportunity to clarify what happened, share the latest plan and information about the awareness raising duty. I know you were concerned that it would be quite cumbersome but everyone seems to be well used to zoom calls now so I don't think it would be too unwieldy to manage. Copying in [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] from Parenting Across Scotland to see what she thinks too.

As always, we are happy to help and keen to assist with implementation to make sure everything runs smoothly up to and after 7<sup>th</sup> November. It would be good to consider a comms approach at a meeting of the Implementation Group as well.

Looking forward to seeing the Parent Club campaign when it comes out!

Best wishes,

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Policy Manager**

**Children 1st**

**A:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**T:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[www.children1st.org.uk](http://www.children1st.org.uk)

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## Item 6

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 20 July 2020 15:10

**To:** '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@copfs.gov.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parliament.scot'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@childreninscotland.org.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cosla.gov.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.wales'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.wales'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk'

**Cc:** '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] C ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]); [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)])

**Subject:** Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 - Implementation Group meeting 20.02.2020 - draft minutes - review request

**Attachments:** [Redacted]- S.25(1)]

Colleagues

I trust this email finds you well and that you're managing to find way to enjoy the easing of lockdown restrictions.

I attach for your review the minutes of the Implementation Group meeting in February. I apologise for the delay in getting this draft to you – as I'm sure you'll appreciate, other work has had to take priority recently. I would be grateful for any comments by close on Wednesday 29 July.

Please note that we will also send out an implementation plan very soon for your review and comments.

Kind regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Family Law | Scottish Government | Civil Law and Legal System Division | St Andrew's House | Area GW15 | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

## Item 7

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 09 October 2020 10:08

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@togetherscotland.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@togetherscotland.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@childrensparliament.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@thepromise.scot; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@home-start.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@whocaresscotland.org; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@youthlinkscotland.org; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@home-start.org.uk

**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]); [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)])

**Subject:** Reaching children and young people - Equal Protection from Assault

**Attachments:** [Redacted]- S.25(1)

Dear Advisory Group members,

Please find attached the resources referred to in my recent post on our Basecamp page.

### Background

The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 will come fully into force on 7 November 2020.

This Act will remove the common law defence of “reasonable chastisement” from the law of Scotland on that date.

This will make use of all types of physical punishment of a child against the law from 7 November 2020. This is in line with the growing body of international evidence showing that physical punishment can be harmful.

We are keen to make sure that children and young people are advised of this change in the law. To do that, we have prepared materials aimed at this audience which are intended to raise awareness about this change in the law. These are attached and are also available via our Basecamp group within the document section.

We invite you to make use of these resources in line with your own needs and aims so that children and young people can be made aware of this change in the law. For example, they could be posted on websites or shared via social media channels.

We also invite you to share these resources with other people or organisations you think might find them useful.

There is **no obligation** to use or share these materials if you do not wish to do so.

If you have any questions about this Act or these resources, please contact [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot of the Family Law Team, Scottish Government.

Sincerely,

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] | Raising Awareness of Children's Rights – Programme Manager | Children's Rights and Participation Team**

**Children and Families Directorate | Scottish Government**

Office: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] | Mobile: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] | Area 2B South Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

**I am currently working from home and have childcare responsibilities so I may take longer to respond than usual.**

**My working hours are: Tues – Fri (8.00am – 5.45pm)**

Do you take a rights based approach? If you would like to learn more about children's rights and child rights and wellbeing impacts assessments (CRWIA), take the 20 minute training course If you would like to involve children and young people in decision-making, take a look at our guide to children and young people's participation.



**Making Scotland the best place to grow up**

**[www.gov.scot/childrenandfamilies](http://www.gov.scot/childrenandfamilies) | @girfec | #bestplacetogrowup**

[www.scotland.gov.uk/girfec](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/girfec)

## Item 8

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 23 October 2020 16:37

**To:** '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] A ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b))); '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parliament.scot'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cosla.gov.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] SW ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b))); [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] (Health)

**Subject:** Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 - Implementation Group meeting 27 October 2020 - papers

**Attachments:** [Redacted]- S.25(1)

Colleagues

Ahead of the meeting with of the Implementation Group on Tuesday afternoon next week, please find attached an agenda and papers for consideration as part of the meeting, including

ParentClub stakeholder toolkit. This was produced by marketing colleagues to support the second wave of the campaign on positive parenting and some of you may have seen this already. This includes access to Easy Read, BSL and audio versions of the campaign summary.

Two examples of amended guidance for adults and children following feedback. We are grateful for the comments which have been received, which have been reflected across all versions of the guidance.

Draft mygov.scot content on the Act. Colleagues with SCOTS access can view a staging page at <https://stage.mygov.scot/smacking-children/>. We would particularly welcome comments from Police Scotland on whether they are content with what has been included in this draft.

Updated implementation plan

Draft Easy Read factsheet on the Act

A framework document and letter on the Act for statutory bodies.

We are happy to discuss these documents at the meeting next week.

For interest, you might wish to take a look at guidance published by the Government of Jersey on their legislation on physical punishment. This is already in force.

We will look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

If you are not able to make the meeting, please feel free to forward the meeting invitation on to a colleague.

Kind regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

P.S. For colleagues with eRDM, you can also access the documents via the links below.

Equal Protection Act - Implementation Group meeting - 27 October 2020 - agenda

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30488133/details>

20-21- Parent Club - Stakeholder Toolkit - Positive Parenting Campaign - Final - 14 Oct 2020

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30538178/details>

Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 - Q&A (for use after 7 November 2020)

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A29973149/details>

Equal Protection - Q&A for children and young people (for use after 7 November 2020)

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30150025/details>

Equal Protection - draft mygov.scot content v2 (clean version)

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30537794/details>

Equal Protection - implementation plan and tasks v2

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A29717192/details>

Equal Protection Act - Easy Read factsheet - v2 (clean version)

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30537845/details>

Equal Protection Act - framework document for statutory bodies - version 2

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30522623/details>

Equal Protection Act: letter to statutory bodies providing services: version 2: 22 October 2020

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30510678/details>

## Item 9

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 27 October 2020 15:57

**To:** '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parliament.scot'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cosla.gov.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]'

**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] (Health); [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]); [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 - Implementation Group meeting 27 October 2020 - papers

Colleagues

Many thanks for your time earlier today.

During the call I said I would pass on our [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]'s contact details so that – if you wish – you can liaise with him on social media and other relevant comms activity in the coming week and a half or so. To that end I've cc'd [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] into this message so you have his email address.

For colleagues who were not able to join the call today, [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] is from our communications section and is working on our strategy in relation to the Equal Protection Act. We intend to push messaging on the Act coming into force on SG social media channel(s) from the beginning of next week (2 November). We'd welcome any support you're able to offer on distributing those messages on your own social media channels. Please contact [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] if you'd like to be involved in this.

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Family Law | Scottish Government | Civil Law and Legal System Division

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 23 October 2020 16:37

**To:** '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@copfs.gov.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scra.gov.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parliament.scot' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parliament.scot>; [Redacted -

S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@childreninscotland.org.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cosla.gov.uk' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cosla.gov.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] (Health) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 - Implementation Group meeting 27 October 2020 - papers

Colleagues

Ahead of the meeting with of the Implementation Group on Tuesday afternoon next week, please find attached an agenda and papers for consideration as part of the meeting, including

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Draft mygov.scot content on the Act. Colleagues with SCOTS access can view a staging page at <https://stage.mycgov.scot/smacking-children/>. We would particularly welcome comments from Police Scotland on whether they are content with what has been included in this draft.

Updated implementation plan

Draft Easy Read factsheet on the Act

A framework document and letter on the Act for statutory bodies.

We are happy to discuss these documents at the meeting next week.

For interest, you might wish to take a look at guidance published by the Government of Jersey on their legislation on physical punishment. This is already in force.

We will look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

If you are not able to make the meeting, please feel free to forward the meeting invitation on to a colleague.

Kind regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

P.S. For colleagues with eRDM, you can also access the documents via the links below.

Equal Protection Act - Implementation Group meeting - 27 October 2020 - agenda  
<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30488133/details>

20-21- Parent Club - Stakeholder Toolkit - Positive Parenting Campaign - Final - 14 Oct 2020  
<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30538178/details>

Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 - Q&A (for use after 7 November 2020)  
<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A29973149/details>

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<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30150025/details>

Equal Protection - draft mygov.scot content v2 (clean version)  
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<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30522623/details>

Equal Protection Act: letter to statutory bodies providing services: version 2: 22 October 2020  
<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A30510678/details>

## Item 10

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 11 May 2021 12:05

**To:** '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@childreninscotland.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] A ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]); '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk'; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@copfs.gov.uk'

**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]); [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk'; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 - Implementation Group meeting (13.05.21) - agenda

**Attachments:** Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 - Implementation Group meeting (13.05.21) - agenda.docx

Colleagues

Ahead of the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 implementation group meeting this Thursday (13 May), please find attached an agenda.

Kind regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Family Law | Scottish Government | Civil Law and Legal System Division

## **CHILDREN (EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019**

### **Implementation Group meeting agenda**

**13 May 2021, 2 – 3.30pm**

**(Virtual meeting)**

1. Introductions
2. Updates from bodies represented round the tables, to include if possible:
  - Any considerations arising as a result of the recent easing of health restrictions
3. Forthcoming work:
  - Communications strategy on anniversary of commencement
  - UNCRC incorporation

- Group members' future work and opportunities for inclusion of reference to Equal Protection
4. Review of Equal Protection Implementation Group: roundtable discussion on the remit, aims, and membership of the group six months after commencement
  5. AOB

Scottish Government  
May 2021

## Item 11

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org>

**Sent:** 28 January 2022 09:03

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)],

Apologies for the delay in responding.

In relation to the matters arising:

Further guidance for the social work sector.

Social Work Scotland advised that it is planning to facilitate further discussions across social work departments to determine if more guidance is needed.

My recollection was that I noted that we would be leading further discussion to consider whether there was a need for further guidance across partner agencies rather than just social work, as noted later in the minute.

I hope this is helpful.

Best wishes,

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Social Work Scotland**

Mobile: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

DISCLAIMER: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify Social Work Scotland at [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 24 January 2022 11:48

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org>

**Subject:** FW: Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

I am writing to check if you had a chance to look at the minutes I sent in December? If you have any comments I would be grateful if you could let me know by Friday 28 January.

Kind Regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 21 December 2021 12:03

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parentingacrossscotland.org>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@copfs.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scra.gov.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nspcc.org.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>  
**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] SW ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

Members of the Implementation Group

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

I attach a draft note of our last Implementation Group meeting. Please reply if you have any comments on the minutes or the revised draft remit.

Regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | Justice Directorate | Civil Law and Legal System | Family Law  
GW-15 | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG



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\*\*\*\*

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Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

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## Item 12

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)])  
**Sent:** 04 January 2022 08:17  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** FW: Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit [OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** [Redacted]- S.25(1)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)](on return)

Hi. All of these changes by Police Scotland are fine.

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 January 2022 08:06  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>  
**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit [OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)],

Happy New Year. I hope you had a peaceful festive period.

Sorry for slight delay - some minor tracked changes in attached for consideration please.

Kind regards

MM

**Detective Superintendent [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]**  
**Head of National Child Abuse Investigation Unit & Lead for Child & Adult Protection**  
**Specialist Crime Division - Public Protection**  
**Police Scotland, [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]**  
**tel. [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] mob. [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] email: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk**

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@assured.systems.gov.scot [mailto:[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@assured.systems.gov.scot]

**Sent:** 21 December 2021 12:03

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parentingacrossscotland.org; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@copfs.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scra.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nspcc.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@assured.systems.gov.scot

**Subject:** Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

**CAUTION: This Email originated from outside the organisation.  
Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.**

Members of the Implementation Group

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

I attach a draft note of our last Implementation Group meeting. Please reply if you have any comments on the minutes or the revised draft remit.

Regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | Justice Directorate | Civil Law and Legal System | Family Law  
GW-15 | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG



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\*\*\*\*\*

## Item 13

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@copfs.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 22 December 2021 14:14

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

Thanks [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

No comments from me.

Thanks

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Senior Procurator Fiscal Depute, Policy Division - Victims and Witnesses,  
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service,

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Direct Dial: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] (not currently in use due to homeworking)

Mobile: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Working Pattern: Tuesday- Friday

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 21 December 2021 12:03

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parentingacrossscotland.org; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@copfs.gov.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scra.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nspcc.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk

**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Subject:** Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

Members of the Implementation Group

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

I attach a draft note of our last Implementation Group meeting. Please reply if you have any comments on the minutes or the revised draft remit.

Regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]



\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

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## Item 14

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 January 2022 12:16  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] – happy new year!

I've had a quick look over and I don't have any comments, except that in the context of how our discussion was captured I'm a wee bit worried that the line about Children 1st could be interpreted as reducing our support for equal protection. On balance, I would prefer if it was removed.

V

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 24 January 2022 11:50  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

I am writing to check if you had a chance to look at the minutes I sent in December? If you have any comments I would be grateful if you could let me know by Friday 28 January.

Kind Regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 21 December 2021 12:03  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parentingacrossscotland.org>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@copfs.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scra.gov.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nspcc.org.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted -

S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>  
**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] SW ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

Members of the Implementation Group  
[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

I attach a draft note of our last Implementation Group meeting. Please reply if you have any comments on the minutes or the revised draft remit.

Regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | Justice Directorate | Civil Law and Legal System | Family Law  
GW-15 | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG



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**Item 15**

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parentingacrossscotland.org>  
**Sent:** 24 January 2022 14:24  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
They look fine to me.  
Best wishes  
[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[\[Redacted - S.38\(1\)\(b\)\] | Manager](#)  
[Parenting across Scotland](#)  
**Email:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parentingacrossscotland.org

**Web | Twitter | Facebook**



**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 24 January 2022 11:46  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parentingacrossscotland.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

I am writing to check if you had a chance to look at the minutes I sent in December? If you have any comments I would be grateful if you could let me know by Friday 28 January.

Kind Regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 21 December 2021 12:03

**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@parentingacrossscotland.org>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@sypmail.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@opfs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@cypcs.org.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@copfs.gov.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scra.gov.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]', [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@nspcc.org.uk>; '[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]' <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@children1st.org.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)], [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.pnn.police.uk>

**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Equal Protection Implementation Group- minutes and revised remit

Members of the Implementation Group

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

I attach a draft note of our last Implementation Group meeting. Please reply if you have any comments on the minutes or the revised draft remit.

Regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | Justice Directorate | Civil Law and Legal System | Family Law  
GW-15 | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG



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## Item 16

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)])  
**Sent:** 09 May 2023 06:41  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.police.uk  
**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@scotland.police.uk; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] L ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]); [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Equal Protection Focus Groups  
**Attachments:** Letter to Police Scotland on Equal Protection Focus Groups - May 2023.docx

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Hi. I attach a letter to Police Scotland on these proposed Focus Groups. We can discuss at the Implementation Group meeting on Thursday. I am writing in similar terms to Social Work Scotland.

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
Family Law Policy  
Scottish Government  
[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Justice Directorate Civil Law and Legal System Division E: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] abcd

By email:

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

8 May 2023

Dear [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

### CHILDREN (EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019 – FOCUS GROUPS

We have discussed at Implementation Group meetings the Scottish Government's intention to run focus groups to examine the impact of the Equal Protection Act on various sectors and groups of people.

To start the process we aim to set up two focus groups. Each group will consist of five representatives from Police Scotland, five representatives from Social Work Scotland and be facilitated by Scottish Government officials. We are looking for

representatives who have been involved in the operational implementation of the Act.

I would be grateful if you could let me know the names of your 12 representatives. Once we have the names we will then set up the groups. We are suggesting 12 at this stage just in case people need to drop out at the last minute.

All meetings will take place virtually (MS Teams), and will last an hour and half maximum.

In due course we will publish a report outlining the findings of the focus groups.

We can discuss the Focus Groups further at the Equal Protection Implementation Group meeting on Thursday.

I am copying this letter to [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] and am also writing to Social Work Scotland.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

## Item 17

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)])  
**Sent:** 09 May 2023 06:38  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@socialworkscotland.org; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Equal Protection Focus Groups  
**Attachments:** Letter to Social Work Scotland on Equal Protection Focus Groups - May 2023.docx

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Hi. I attach a letter to Social Work Scotland on these proposed Focus Groups. We can discuss at the Implementation Group meeting on Thursday. I am writing in similar terms to Police Scotland.

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
Family Law Policy  
Scottish Government  
[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Justice Directorate Civil Law and Legal System Division E: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] abcd

By email:

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

—

8 May 2023

Dear [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**CHILDREN (EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT) (SCOTLAND) ACT  
2019 – FOCUS GROUPS**

We discussed at Implementation Group meetings the Scottish Government's intention to run focus groups to examine the impact of the Equal Protection Act on various sectors and groups of people.

To start the process we aim to set up two focus groups. Each group will consist of five representatives from Police Scotland, five representatives from Social Work

Scotland and be facilitated by Scottish Government officials. We are looking for operational leads from social work who have been involved in the implementation of the Act.

I would be grateful if you could let me know the names of Social Work Scotland's 12 representatives. Once we have the names we will then set up the groups. We are suggesting 12 at this stage just in case people need to drop out at the last minute.

All meetings will take place virtually (MS Teams), and will last an hour and half maximum.

In due course we will publish a report outlining the findings of the focus groups.

We can discuss the Focus Groups further at the Equal Protection Implementation Group meeting on Thursday.

I am copying this letter to [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] at Social Work Scotland and am also writing to Police Scotland.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

## Item 18

**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] on behalf of Minister for Children & Young People  
**Sent:** 16 November 2022 16:35  
**To:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]); Minister for Children & Young People  
**Cc:** Minister for Community Safety; DG Education & Justice; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]); [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]); [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; Solicitor to the Scottish Government; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] (SGLD); Head of Justice Analytical Services; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: CHILDREN (EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019 – FOCUS GROUPS  
**Attachments:** Equal Protection Focus Groups\_ letter to [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] MSP.pdf

**This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.**

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Thanks for drafting this letter. [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] is content to send the attached amended version. I'll send it today.

Thanks

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] Inverarity | Private Secretary | Minister for Children and Young People**

📞: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] | Mobile: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] | [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

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**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 15 November 2022 07:04

**To:** Minister for Children & Young People <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Community Safety <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Solicitor to the Scottish Government <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] (SGLD) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services



**Subject:** RE: CHILDREN (EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019 – FOCUS GROUPS

Hi [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)],

[Redacted - S.30(c)]

Kind Regards

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Children and Young People – [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | E: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

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**From:** [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 10 November 2022 17:42

**To:** Minister for Children & Young People <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Community Safety <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] ([Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Solicitor to the Scottish Government <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] (SGLD) <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Head of Justice Analytical Services <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@copfs.gov.uk>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** CHILDREN (EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019 – FOCUS GROUPS

Submission on Equal Protection Focus Groups - November 2022 details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

**PS/Minister for Children and Young People**

Hi. A routine submission (4 pages in total) seeking the Minister's agreement to run focus groups on the implementation of the Equal Protection legislation.

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Family Law Policy

Scottish Government

[Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - S.30(c)]

- [Ministear airson Clann agus Daoine Òga](#)
- [Minister for Children and Young People](#)
- [Clare Haughey MSP](#)
- 



T: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

E: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Ross Greer MSP

By email: [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

Our ref: A 41430633

16 November 2022

Dear Ross

## **CHILDREN (EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019: FOCUS GROUPS**

I am writing to let the Scottish Green Group know about focus groups we intend to run on the implementation of the [Children \(Equal Protection from Assault\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#).

As you know, the 2019 Act was originally a member's Bill by John Finnie, who was then a

Scottish Green Party MSP. It came fully into force on 7 November 2020.

The purpose of the Act is to help bring to an end the physical punishment of children by parents and others caring for or in charge of children.

The 2019 Act does not create a new criminal offence: instead, it removes an existing defence of "reasonable chastisement" to a charge of assault. It provides children with the same protection from assault as adults.

We plan to run focus groups with key bodies (such as Police and Social Work) and individuals affected by the legislation to examine the impact of the Act on various sectors and groups of people. Members of the [Implementation Group](#) we established to help implement the Act, and which continues to meet on a 6 monthly basis, are supportive of this approach.

Members of the Implementation Group generally prefer multi-disciplinary focus groups rather than separate groups of representatives for the different areas involved.

All of the focus groups will be conducted on-line.

We will publish a report at the end of the exercise and I will keep you informed of progress.

My lead official in this area is [Redacted - S.38(1)(b)]

**CLARE HAUGHEY**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

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