

PE1695/B

First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership submission of 6 July 2018

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2018.

We understand that the main issue raised by petition PE1695 is that legal advice through legal aid is not available in all cases of potential human rights violations and that the petitioners are asking that legal aid be made available in all cases where there is a potential breach.

The First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights are tasked with making recommendations to the First Minister on how Scotland can continue to lead by example in human rights, including economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, by December of this year. We are currently gathering evidence on a large range of issues relevant to our remit, for example on the afore mentioned rights and on the implications for human rights of UK withdrawal from the European Union.

We note that, 'Rethinking Legal Aid: an independent strategic review', was published in February 2018 and that there is an on-going Independent Review of the Regulation of Legal Service and that these may be of interest to you.