

PE1756/M

Scottish Government submission of 3 December 2020

Thank you for your letter of 12 November requesting further information for the above public petition requested by the Public Petitions Committee.

The Committee has asked if the Scottish Government could advise:

- the timetable for the passage of the Bill referred to in the response of [29 September 2020](#); and
- whether the Scottish Government will undertake a campaign to increase public and professional awareness of Adult Support and Protection legislation

In respect of the first point, when a Bill is introduced in Parliament, responsibility for the timetable for its Parliamentary passage becomes a matter for the Parliament. The Domestic Abuse (Protection) Bill has been assigned to the Justice Committee as the lead Committee. The Committee issued a call for evidence on the Bill on 10 November. Informally, it is hoped that the Bill will be passed in March 2021.

For the second point, the Scottish Government is currently taking forward the actions outlined in the [Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan 2019-22](#), a plan which aims to complement and strengthen local adult support and protection improvement activity, provide assurance and identify future areas for improvement so that adults at risk of harm in Scotland are supported and protected.

Within that plan is the proposed development of a public awareness campaign and a communications group has been established to take forward that work with the ultimate aim of ensuring the public are better informed about who is at risk of harm and what to do about it.

Existing resources include the [Act Against Harm](#) website and National Adult Support and Protection (ASP) Day, on 20 February, provides an opportunity for local and national activity to promote the 'Seen Something, Say Something' message.

Other strands within the plan, such as the refresh of the Code of Practice for the Act, are designed to improve awareness amongst professionals of the intentions and applicability of the legislation.