



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

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Dear Lord Freud,

FORMAL INVITATION TO GIVE EVIDENCE

Firstly may I thank you for the taking the time to meet Members of the Committee during your visit to Scotland last week. Although I am sure that we will continue to have different perspectives on elements of welfare reform, your commitment in coming to meet the Committee is appreciated.

I am glad that we have been able to establish informal channels of communication, but, as I indicated at the meeting, the Committee has always been clear that these should not preclude formal evidence taking.

I would therefore like to invite you, on behalf of the Welfare Reform Committee, to come and give formal evidence to the Committee.

Late this year or early next the Welfare Reform Committee will be examining the Scottish Government's proposals for the distribution of 'passport benefits' under the new welfare reform regime. The Committee would find it helpful to be appraised of your own approach as well as receive a general update on the development of your welfare reform policy. I would be happy allow time for you to make an opening statement if this were helpful.

I appreciate that you have an onerous responsibility in overseeing the introduction of welfare reform and that your diary will be a full one. I have therefore opted to offer a range of dates a reasonable time in advance. The Committee normally meets at

10.00 a.m. on a Tuesday and we have kept open a range of dates to try and accommodate your appearance: 25 September, 23 October, 6, 20 November and 4 December.

Do please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael McMahon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Michael McMahon MSP
Convener
Welfare Reform Committee