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Graham Simpson MSP
Convener of Delegated Powers and Law Reform
Committee
Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SP

26 July 2019

Dear, Graham,

Thank you for your letter of 17 July in relation to the Scottish Law Commission (SLC). You set out the interest your Committee has in potential legislation coming before it for scrutiny and ask whether I can provide an early indication of whether any SLC Bills might be included in the Scottish Government's next legislation programme.

The Scottish Government's next Programme for Government (PfG) will be announced in September by the First Minister, and there is a limit to what I can say about the Government's future legislative plans in advance of that statement. However, I can confirm that I currently expect the Scottish Government to bring forward two Bills before the end of the parliamentary session which will be based upon SLC reports and draft Bills. Having regard to the Presiding Officer's current criteria for the referral of SLC Bills, I anticipate that one Bill will require to be referred to the relevant subject committee and one Bill will be suitable for referral to either the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee or the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee (EEFWC). The decision on Bill referrals is of course ultimately a matter for Parliamentary Bureau but I intend to discuss Bill policy, timing and referral issues with you once the First Minister has made her PfG statement in September.

I have been discussing the implementation of SLC reports over the last several months with my Ministerial colleagues as I review the Government's legislative priorities for the remainder of this parliamentary session and beyond. It is my intention, working with the SLC and the Minister for Community Safety as responsible sponsorship Minister, to develop and set out a clearer medium- to long-term statement of the Government's plans for the implementation of reports produced by the SLC. I will ensure that Conveners with an interest in the implementation of SLC Bills are kept sighted as that work is taken forward.

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I am copying this letter to the Chair and Chief Executive of the SLC, and am writing in similar terms to the Convener of the EEFWC who has also written to me about the implementation of SLC Bills.



GRAEME DEY

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