



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

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Dear Christina

Definition of the term Gypsies and Travellers

At its meeting on Tuesday 2 April the Committee agreed that I would write to you in relation to an issue stemming from its consideration of the Planning (Scotland) Bill as amended at Stage 2. Specifically, whether the Scottish Government has any plans to define in legislation an overarching definition of Gypsies and Travellers.

To provide some context, the Committee was considering a new provision inserted into the Bill at Stage 2 which requires an evidence report for the preparation of a local development plan to include a statement on the steps taken to seek the views of Gypsies and Travellers. A further delegated power provides that the meaning of Gypsies and Travellers is specified in regulations made by Scottish Ministers.

The Committee was interested to learn from the Supplementary Delegated Powers Memorandum that at present there is no definition of the term Gypsies and Travellers in Scots law for the Bill to draw on.

The Committee appreciated that the power in the Bill to provide a meaning of Gypsies and Travellers is for a very specific purpose and so the Bill is perhaps not the appropriate legislative vehicle in which to place a wider statutory definition. However, it agreed that I should write to you to ask whether the Scottish Government has any plans to bring forward a statutory definition of Gypsies and Travellers in the future.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning and the Convener of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abraham".A handwritten signature consisting of a stylized, cursive letter, possibly "R".

Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee