



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE EHRiC**

**Christina McKelvie MSP  
Convener**

Angela Constance MSP

T3.40

Cabinet Secretary for  
Communities, Social Security  
and Equalities

The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Scottish Government

Tel: 0131-348-5217

[equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot](mailto:equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot)

*Via email only*

11 October 2016

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

### **Scottish National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights**

As you will be aware the EHRiC Committee has been holding a number of round-table evidence sessions around the formulation of its work programme. During our committee meeting on 22 September we heard about the development of a Scottish National Action Plan (SNAP) on Business and Human Rights.

Carole Ewart, representing the Jimmy Reid Foundation, had commented about the creation of the UK Government's first national action plan on business and human rights in 2013, which was updated in May 2016, and deals with issues such as procurement and rewarding companies which comply with human rights<sup>1</sup>. She also drew our attention to the Scottish Government's decision to develop a separate action plan for Scotland.

We understand the Scottish Government commissioned a National Baseline Assessment on business and human rights in May 2015 in order to provide an understanding of the current position in Scotland with respect to Scotland's approach to the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs). This assessment was intended to

---

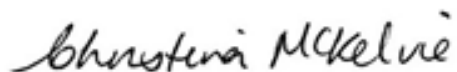
<sup>1</sup> Equalities and Human Rights Committee [EHRiC], Official Report 22 September 2016, Col 5: <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10538&mode=pdf>

support the identification of potential gaps in practice, help partners to understand existing good practice in approach to the UNGPs by the business community. The information collected was also to underpin further collective steps (through Government, public bodies, business and third sector organisations) within the SNAP framework to better give effect to the UNGPs.

We would be grateful for a progress update on the development of the SNAP on Business and Human Rights, in particular, when the results of the Baseline Assessment will be published. It would also be of interest to know the timescales for the development of the Action Plan, and who will participate in its development and also how transparent the process will be.

The Committee plans to consider its work programme immediately after the October recess, as such the Committee would welcome your response to this letter by Friday 21 October.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina McKelvie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christina McKelvie MSP  
Convener  
Equalities and Human Rights Committee [EHRiC]