

Michael Russell MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and
Constitutional Relations
Scottish Government

12 March 2019

Inquiry into prisoner voting

Dear Mr Russell

I am Chair of the National Assembly for Wales' Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee. We are currently looking at whether prisoners should be given the vote in Welsh elections.

We are aware that our counterpart Committee in the Scottish Parliament carried out similar work last year, culminating in their report on prisoner voting in Scotland. We are also following your recently closed consultation with particular interest.

We note that the Equalities and Human Rights Committee did not speak directly to victims of crimes. While we have taken evidence from the Victim's Commissioner for England and Wales, we have also found this to be an area where it has been difficult to secure further evidence.

We are therefore writing to ask for further information about how you took account of the views of victims' in coming to your preferred option of giving prisoners serving short sentences the vote. We are aware that the Equalities and Human Rights Committee asked you to "consider a plurality of views on the issue and consult as wide a range of stakeholders as possible, including victims of crimes and the general public." We would be interested to know how you have done this, and in particular how you have engaged with victims.

Finally, we would be interested in knowing what research or evidence you have drawn upon in coming to your preferred option.



Our final evidence session with the Minister for Housing and Local Government is on 21 March, and therefore it would be incredibly helpful to have your response before this meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The first letter 'J' is large and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

John Griffiths

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

