



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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[Via email only](#)

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Dear John,

Inquiry into Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament

Thank you for your letter of 12 December 2017 advising the Committee about your inquiry into Human Rights in Wales. Your letter drew our attention to the narrowed scope of your inquiry, which is now focusing on the impact of Brexit on human rights.

We note with interest that you have agreed on a set of core principles against which the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee intends to adhere to during the Brexit process and against which progress in relation to human rights and equality will be monitored:

- there should no regression in human rights and equality protections as a result of Brexit;
- Wales should establish a formal mechanism to track future developments in human rights and equality in the EU to ensure that Welsh citizens benefit from the same level of protection as EU citizens; and
- Wales should continue to be a global leader in human rights, and commit to bringing forward legislation to fill any gaps in rights and protection if the UK Government does not do so (where possible).

In relation to Brexit, we have been keeping a [watching brief](#) on its impact on equalities and human rights in Scotland and have held three specific evidence sessions examining the potential impact. In addition, on [8 and 15 March](#) we took evidence on the Scottish Government's UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) Bill.

Against this background, and with the extension of our remit to include human rights, we have embarked on an [inquiry](#) into 'Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament'. Our inquiry seeks to examine how the Scottish Parliament could enhance its approach to protecting and promoting human rights in Scotland. It was launched on 21 January 2018 with a public [call for views](#) and the responses will be available on our webpage shortly.

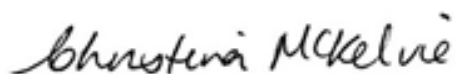
Our first evidence session was held on 29 March and we will continue to take evidence into May. Our aim is to publish our Report before the summer recess.

We would be very interested to hear more about the human rights issues faced in Wales and whether these correspond to those in Scotland. Also of interest, is what you have discovered through your inquiry and whether there is anything we could learn from your new insight into the impact of Brexit on human rights in Wales.

If you wished to contribute formally to our inquiry, then we could make arrangements for Thursday 10 May. Of course, I recognise the timing might be difficult in terms of your Assembly commitments or be contingent on the current stage of your Committee's inquiry, as such you may prefer to submit written views to assist us with our inquiry.

I am hopeful we can progress arrangements in the coming months for a meeting of the Chairs of counterpart committees of the devolved legislatures and the UK Parliament to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Yours sincerely,



Christina McKelvie
Convener
Equalities and Human Rights Committee