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The Right Honourable Lady Anne Paton  
Chair  
Scottish Law Commission

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20 October 2025

Dear Lady Paton,

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 September to the Minister for Victims and Community Safety in relation publication of the Commission's Homicide report. I am replying as this aspect of the Commission's work falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Commission for its thorough and thoughtful review of Scots homicide law, culminating in the publication of its Report on the Mental Element in Homicide and the accompanying draft Homicide (Scotland) Bill. The level of detail and care evident in the Commission's work reflects its commitment to ensuring that our legal framework remains fit for purpose and responsive to societal developments.

I have taken careful note of the Commission's recommendations, which seek to modernise, clarify and improve the law of homicide in Scotland. These proposals aim to enhance the accessibility and coherence of the law, while addressing longstanding concerns and complexities that have been raised by legal practitioners, academics, and members of the public. Of particular significance is the recommendation to remove the gendered and outdated defence of provocation based on sexual infidelity, thereby ensuring that the law reflects contemporary understandings of justice and equality.

This is a complex and sensitive area of law, and any changes must be considered with due regard to their potential impact on victims, accused persons, and the wider justice system. My officials will continue to engage with the Commission as we reflect on the findings and recommendations set out in the report.

We will give the report careful and comprehensive consideration, before determining the most appropriate next steps.

Yours sincerely,



**ANGELA CONSTANCE**

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