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Our Reference: 202400423031

Your Reference: Open letter to First Minister on the right to a healthy environment

31 July 2024

Dear Dr Shivali Fifield,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 July 2024 regarding the upcoming Programme for Government and the human right to a healthy environment in the proposed Human Rights Bill. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the First Minister given my portfolio responsibility for human rights.

I want to reassure you that the Scottish Government remains firmly committed to advancing human rights in Scotland and continues to recognise the importance of incorporation in building a stronger human rights culture across public service delivery. The advancement of human rights - particularly for those furthest from realising their rights - is central to this government's priority missions of tackling child poverty, building excellent public services and tackling climate change.

The legislative priorities of the Scottish Government for the year ahead will be announced in the Scottish Government's upcoming Programme for Government.

I am grateful for the extensive work that you and colleagues have undertaken to support the development of proposals for the Human Rights Bill. I look forward to continued engagement on this going forward.

Yours sincerely

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)



# SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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