



For the Attention of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Victim Support Scotland – Supplementary

1. Victim Support Scotland has no data to draw a firm policy position on the blanket ban on prisoner voting in Scotland. It would therefore not be appropriate to comment from the victims' perspective. We require an evidence base to validate an opinion beyond the one given to the effect that we are supportive of readily available public information on punishment processes, any changes need to occur alongside awareness campaigns on what the principal purpose of incarceration sets to achieve, and that prisoner voting should be seen in the wider context of equalities and human rights.
2. The “*voice of victims*” must continue to underpin everything we do. We know victims and witnesses often ask about sentencing policy decisions. However, the specifics of prisoner voting entitlement are not currently captured.
3. There is perhaps an opportunity for The Scottish Government to commission a separate piece of work, considering how best to obtain the views of the public and/or from victims to help inform any future changes to the Electoral System.

ENDS