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SCOLAG Legal Journal is happy to include all types of consultations. Our pages are open to campaigning groups, voluntary and statutory bodies, MSPs and others. Please send details to:

consultations@scolag.org

Destitution & Asylum

Closing 08/03/17

The Equalities and Human Rights Committee [EHRIC] is seeking views on the issue of destitution amongst asylum seekers in Scotland. The full call for evidence is at <<http://bit.ly/EHiC-daa>>.

Contact Equalities and Human Rights Committee, Room T3.40, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP; 0131 348 5223; or email - equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot.

Firearms Licensing Fees

Closing 09/03/17

This paper seeks views on the implementation of new fees for firearms licences issued by the Home Office and Scottish government. It sets out the government's proposed fee levels for prohibited weapons, museums and approved shooting clubs. See <<http://bit.ly/FLF3917>>.

Contact Firearms Consultation, Home Office, Drugs and Firearms Licensing Unit, 5th Floor Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF; or email - firearmsconsultations@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Gender Pay Gap

Closing 10/03/17

The Scottish Parliament's Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee is seeking views on the gender pay gap in Scotland, to inform its inquiry "To explore the effect of the gender pay gap on the Scottish economy, with a particular focus on business performance, the Scottish public sector and Scottish Government action required to address the issue". For the call for evidence see <<http://bit.ly/ejfw-gpg>>.

Contact Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee, Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP; GenderPayGap@parliament.scot.

Land Rights & Responsibilities

Closing 10/03/17

Under the Land Reform (Scotland) 2016 Act, Scottish Ministers must prepare, consult upon and publish a *Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement*. This forms a key part of the Scottish Government's commitment to end the 'stop-start' nature of land reform. This consultation is an opportunity to express views on the content of the Statement. See <<http://bit.ly/SG-lrrs>>.

Contact Land Reform Team, Area 1-C (North), Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; 0131 244 4855; LandReform@gov.scot.

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission

Closing 13/03/17

The SLCC invites views on its operating plan and budget for 2017/18. The draft budget for includes an increase of 12.6% and a 12.5% rise in the levy paid by solicitors. See <<http://bit.ly/SLCC-c>>.

Contact Scottish Legal Complaints Commission, The Stamp Office, 10-14 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3EG; 0131 201 2130; or email - enquiries@scottishlegalcomplaints.org.uk.

Universal Credit Payments

Closing 13/03/17

The Scottish Government is consulting on the Universal Credit (Claims and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. The draft regulations are to

implement the two priority Universal Credit (UC) flexibilities: managed payments of rent to landlords; and more frequent payments of UC. See <<http://bit.ly/SG-ucp>>.

Contact Universal Credit Flexibilities Consultation, Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Area 2H North, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; or email - ucflexconsultation@gov.scot.

Employment Tribunal Fees

Closing 14/03/17

The Ministry of Justice is conducting a review of Employment Tribunal fees, which claims the introduction of fees has met its objectives. Nonetheless, the review proposes adjustment to the Help with Fees scheme to extend the scope of support available to people on lower incomes. See <<http://bit.ly/ET-fr>>.

Contact Michael Odulaja, Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ; 020 3334 4417; or email - mojfeespolicy@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Organ & Tissue Donation

Closing 14/03/17

This consultation seeks views on ways in which the number of organ and tissue donors in Scotland can be increased. The first chapter seeks views on alternative ways of potentially increasing the proportion of cases where organ and/or tissue donation is authorised. Specifically, it looks at how an opt out system allowing authorisation to be deemed in certain circumstances, with safeguards, might work in Scotland. The full paper can be found via <<http://bit.ly/SG-otd>>.

Contact Organ and Tissue Donation Consultation, Scottish Government, Health Protection Division, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG; organdonationscotland@gov.scot.

Driving Lessons on Motorways

Closing 17/03/17

This consultation asks for views on whether learner drivers should be allowed to take driving lessons on motorways while accompanied by a fully-qualified approved driving instructor; in a car which has dual-controls. It also asks for views on whether the driving instructor training and testing system needs to be changed for them to provide motorway lessons. The paper and response form are available via <<http://bit.ly/DFT-dlom>>.

Contact Learners on motorways consultation, RULIS, Zone 3/29, Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR; learnersonmotorways@dft.gsi.gov.uk.

Football (Strict Liability) (Scotland) Bill

Closing 17/03/17

James Dornan MSP seeks views on his proposal for a Bill to make Scottish professional football clubs strictly liable for their supporters' behaviour. The consultation paper and short video can be accessed at <<http://bit.ly/SP-pfsl>>.

Contact James Dornan MSP, Room M3.07, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP; 0141 632 5238; or email - James.Dornan.msp@parliament.scot.

Gender Representation on Public Boards

Closing 17/03/17

The Scottish Government seeks views on the practical application of the draft Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill provisions. It also offers consultees an opportunity to suggest how the Bill might be strengthened. The paper and response form can be accessed via <<http://bit.ly/gropbb>>.

Contact Lesley Cunningham, The Equality Unit, Area 3H-North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; or email - Lesley.cunningham@gov.scot.

Limited Partnership Law

Closing 17/03/17

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy seeks views and evidence on: the possible reasons why registration of limited partnerships in Scotland has increased; the value limited partnerships bring to the UK economy as a whole; and how the wider limited partnership framework operates and whether any changes need to be made. For the paper see <<http://bit.ly/DBIS-lplr>>. Contact Elayne Carr, The Business Frameworks Team, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 1 Victoria Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 0EH; or email - ReviewofLimitedPartnershipLaw@beis.gov.uk.

Moped & Motorcycle Training

Closing 17/03/17

This consultation asks for views on changes to improve moped and motorcycle training in Great Britain. The online consultation and response document is at <<http://bit.ly/dvsa-mt>>.

Contact email learning2ride@dvsa.gov.uk.

Councillor Code of Conduct

Closing 20/03/17

This consultation seeks views on amendment to the code of conduct to allow councillors to continue to act as councillors and continue to represent their electorate without there being a conflict of interest if they represent the council on the board of an external organisation. The full paper is at <<http://bit.ly/SG-cccr>>.

Contact Tony Romain, Local Government Policy and Relationships, Local Government and Analytical Services Division, The Scottish Government, Area 3G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; 0131 244 4280; or email - CCCRReview@gov.scot.

Head Teachers

Closing 20/03/17

This consultation looks for comments on draft regulations that define the education and training standards expected of teachers before they are appointed to their first head teacher post. See <<http://bit.ly/SG-htes>>.

Contact People and Leadership Unit, Scottish Government, 2A-South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; or email - scott.brand@gov.scot.

High Hedges

Closing 20/03/17

The Local Government and Communities Committee has issued a call for written evidence from all interested parties as part of its consideration of its post-legislative scrutiny of the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013. For the full call for evidence, see <<http://bit.ly/hh-pls>>.

Contact Clerk to the Local Government and Communities Committee Office Room T3.60 Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP; or email - LGCCCommittee@parliament.scot.

Child Poverty

Closing 23/03/17

The Scottish Parliament's Social Security Committee is seeking views on the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill. For full details, including specific questions the Committee invites respondents to address, see <<http://bit.ly/cpb-s1>>.

Contact socialsecuritycommittee@parliament.scot.

Contract (Third Party Rights)

Closing 24/03/17

The Scottish Parliament's Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee has issued a call for written evidence as part of its consideration of

the Contract (Third Party Rights) (Scotland) Bill. For full details, including specific questions the Committee invites respondents to address, see <<http://bit.ly/ctpr-s1>>.

Contact Clerk to the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, Chamber Office, Room T1.01, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP; or email - DPLR.Committee@parliament.scot.

Crown Estate Management

Closing 29/03/17

This paper, *Crown Estate: A Consultation on the Long Term Management of the Crown Estate in Scotland*, focuses on the future purpose of the Crown Estate in Scotland and what changes are needed to the existing legislation to deliver that purpose. See <<http://bit.ly/lotmoce>>.

Contact Scottish Government, Crown Estate Strategy Unit, Area 1-A South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; or email - CrownEstate.Consultation@gov.scot.

Derogation From the ECHR

Closing 31/03/17

The UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights, is calling for written submissions on the UK Government's announced intention to derogate from the European Convention on Human Rights before embarking on significant future military operations. The Committee has decided to call for evidence in advance of an actual derogation, to enable it to scrutinise the likely justification for such a derogation, and to enable it to respond swiftly in the event of such a derogation taking place. Details of the terms of reference for the enquiry and how to submit a response can be found via <<http://bit.ly/JCHR-d>>.

Contact Joint Committee on Human Rights, Houses of Parliament, London, SW1A 0AA; 020 7219 3472; or email - jchr@parliament.uk.

Housing & Property Chamber: Procedure & Legal Assistance

Closing 31/03/17

The Scottish Government seeks views on the operational procedure of the First-tier Tribunal Housing & Property Chamber for hearing the disputes transferring from the Sheriff court, disputes under the new letting agents' regime and disputes involving the new tenancies established by the Private Tenancies (Scotland) Act 2016. The Government aims for the Chamber to have operational procedures that will put the needs of the user first, enable a less adversarial approach, and allow the parties to engage directly with the Tribunal. It intends to improve access by making the process more understandable, more user-friendly. The paper also invites views on proposals for the provision of publicly funded legal assistance in the First-tier Tribunal Housing and Property Chamber. The consultation paper and response form are at <<http://bit.ly/hpc-pfc>>.

Contact Better Homes Division, Housing Services Policy Unit, Area 1H South, Victoria Quay, Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; or email - HousingServicesPolicyUnitTeam@scot.gov.

Criminal Legal Assistance

Closing 03/04/17

The Scottish Legal Aid Board invites stakeholders to give their views on a revised Code of Practice in relation to criminal legal assistance. For the full details, including links to the revised Code and the response form, see <<http://bit.ly/clacod>>.

Contact Kingsley Thomas, Head of Criminal Legal Assistance: thomaski@slab.org.uk.

Official Secrets

Closing 03/04/17

The Law Commission has published a consultation paper which suggests ways to improve the law around the protection of official information. The

relevant statutes - the Official Secrets Acts in particular - are being independently reviewed to ensure that the law is keeping pace with the challenges of the 21st century. The Commission has made several provisional conclusions as to how the legislation could be improved to enhance the protection that is currently afforded to official information. To access the full consultation, provisional conclusions, recommendations, and to respond visit <<http://bit.ly/LC-pod>>.

Contact Criminal Law Team, Law Commission, 1st Floor, Tower, 52 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AG; 020 3334 3100; or email - pod@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk.

The Scottish Planning System

Closing 04/04/17

This consultation paper provides details of proposed changes to the planning system in Scotland and seeks respondent's views on them. This paper builds on the work of the independent panel commissioned in 2015, the Scottish Government and stakeholders. It presents proposals for change and provides an opportunity for people to help shape the future of the planning system in Scotland. The paper and response form are available at <<http://bit.ly/acotfop>>.

Contact 0131 244 7067; or email - planningreview@gov.scot.

Investigatory Powers Act 2016

Closing 06/04/17

The Home Office is conducting this consultation in five draft codes of practice under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA): interception of communications; equipment interference; bulk communications data acquisition; bulk personal datasets; and National Security Notices. See <<http://bit.ly/IPA16-c>>.

Contact email - investigatorypowers@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Benefit Cap

Closing 07/04/17

The 'Commons Select Committee on Work & Pensions is conducting an inquiry into the benefit cap and how it affects British households. It invites written submissions addressing the following points:

- The cap is intended to incentivise behavioural change amongst claimants and secure savings for the Exchequer. To what extent is it achieving that?
- To what extent has claimant behaviour responded to the cap, through moving into work, moving house etc.? What effect does the lower cap have on incentives, what are the barriers to behavioural change and how can they be overcome?
- Does the cap address high underlying rates of housing benefit and child maintenance in a fair way?
- What are the consequential costs of the cap for other public spending, such as that by local authorities?
- What are the consequences for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) and what impact does use of DHPs have on behavioural change?
- Are there unintended consequences (either positive or negative) of the cap?

The call for evidence is at <<http://bit.ly/WPC-bci>>. Contact Work & Pensions Committee, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA; or email - workpencom@parliament.uk.

Healthcare in Schools

Closing 24/04/17

This consultation seeks views on the draft guidance on Healthcare in Schools in Scotland. The guidance will support health boards and schools in the delivery of healthcare support to pupils who need support as a result of a healthcare need. See

<<http://bit.ly/dgohis>>.

Contact 0131 244 0444; or email - HNIS@gov.scot.

Commercial Radio

Closing 08/05/17

The Department for Culture, Media & Sport is consulting of deregulation of commercial radio. It welcomes comments from individuals and organisations involved in the commercial radio sector, including members of the public who hold an interest in commercial radio.

Contact FAO Commercial Radio Deregulation Consultation, Media Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 4th Floor, 100 Parliament Street London, SW1A 2BQ; or email - commercialradio@culture.gov.uk.

Education & Traveller Children

Closing 28/05/17

This paper, *Improving educational outcomes for children and young people from travelling cultures*, seeks the views of stakeholders in educational and social services and the third sector who support Traveller families with children. It also welcomes views from Travellers themselves. For the full paper see <<http://bit.ly/ieoftc>>.

Contact Lynne Carter, Support and Wellbeing Unit, 0131 244 0947; travellereducation@gov.scot.

Onshore Wind Policy

Closing 30/05/17

A number of recent changes at both a UK and Scottish level have highlighted the need to reassess the role of onshore wind to ensure it can deliver across a range of policy priorities which will bring maximum value for Scotland in terms of economic, social and environmental benefits. The aim of the *Consultation on a Draft Onshore Wind Policy Statement* is to ensure we are focusing on the correct areas to ensure there will continue to be a future for onshore wind in Scotland. See <<http://bit.ly/codowps>>.

Contact energystrategy@gov.scot.

Talking "Fracking"

Closing 31/05/17

In January 2015, the Scottish Government put in place a moratorium on unconventional oil and gas development in Scotland, which prevents hydraulic fracturing for shale oil and gas, and coal bed methane extraction taking place while the Scottish Government investigates evidence on potential impacts. This consultation does not set out or advocate a preferred Scottish Government position or policy. Instead, it is an opportunity for the people of Scotland to consider the evidence, and to present views on that evidence and the future of this industry in Scotland. See <www.talkingfracking.scot>

Contact uogconsultation@gov.scot.

Public Houses Code

Closing 20/06/17

Tied Pubs (Code and Adjudicator) (Scotland) Bill Proposed by Neil Bibby MSP on 16/02/17

Proposal for a Bill to establish a Pubs Code in Scotland to govern the relationship between tenants of tied pubs and their owners, and an Adjudicator to enforce the Code. Consultation closes 20/06/17.

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