

From: [redacted]

Sent: 09 July 2020 16:29

To: Stronach S (Sean) <Sean.Stronach@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: Misogynistic Harassment Working Group next steps

Hi Sean, [redacted]

I'd hoped to have been able to have a chat with you both about PfG, the reprioritisation exercise and links with the MHWG, as the MHWG is clearly a priority for Ministers, but, as you well know, it has not yet been agreed where responsibility for this will sit or what resource will be required to deliver on this commitment. However, you are both on leave this week, and I'm on leave next week. In addition, Robert is also now on leave so not around to engage with Lisa or Anna on this.

I've therefore included a marker in our returns that flags this work and states

- In April 2020 high level commitment announced to a standalone offence, in principle, on misogynistic harassment and to establish a working group to look at how the justice system currently deals with misogynistic harassment and if there are any gaps. Group will also consider whether 'sex' should be include in hate crime legislative framework at a later date.
- This is in response to FM Advisory Council on Women and Girls report and recommendations (June 2019), and is aligned with the Hate Crime and Public Order Bill enabling power, which would allow 'sex' to be included in the hate crime framework at a later date.
- It was announced that this work will be taken forward by a Misogynistic Harassment Working Group.
- This is relevant to Justice and Equality portfolios, but lead Minister has not been formally agreed, and no resources have been identified.

It would, however, be useful if we could agree how best to handle this moving forward so that this issue can be properly considered in the round in relation to both the ongoing reprioritisation exercise and PfG.

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