



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

First Minister John Swinney MSP

St Andrew's House,
Edinburgh

Dear First Minister,

07/11/25

We write to raise concerns regarding the implementation in Scotland of the Public Office (Accountability) Bill, to be known as the Hillsborough Law.

We welcome the decision by the Scottish Government to work with the UK government to ensure that the bill's provisions can be applied across the UK.

We are concerned however that, although the bill provides for the biggest extension of legal aid in England and Wales for over a decade, providing non-means-tested legal aid for bereaved families at inquests where a public authority is an interested person, the Scottish Government has not yet confirmed that the same provision will be available for families in Scotland.

Were such a provision not made in Scotland there would be an inequality in access to justice for Scots. Something that we are sure you would not wish to happen.

We would be grateful therefore, if you could confirm at your earliest convenience that the Scottish Government will replicate the provision being made by the UK Government and that non-means-tested legal aid will be available in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas McAllister MP, Member of Parliament for West Dunbartonshire

Euan Stainbank MP, Member of Parliament for Falkirk

Irene Cambell MP, Member of Parliament for North Ayrshire and Arran

Graeme Downie MP, Member of Parliament for Dunfermline and Dollar

Scott Arthur MP, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South West

Tracy Gilbert MP, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh North and Leith

Lillian Jones MP, Member of Parliament for Kilmarnock and Loudon

John Grady MP, Member of Parliament for Glasgow East

Martin Rhodes MP, Member of Parliament for Glasgow North