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Lord Pentland
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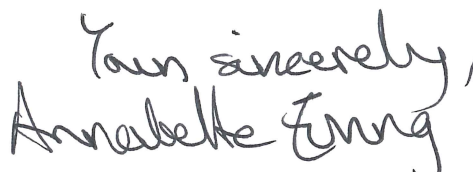
Dear Lord Pentland,

I would like to thank you and the project team at the Scottish Law Commission for your Report on Defamation, which you published in December last year. I very much appreciate the hard work that went in to producing such a comprehensive review of an interesting area of the law.

As you are probably aware we have been giving the Report and the recommendations contained in it our consideration. The Report deals with a wide range of issues and I note that on some there was not always consensus amongst the stakeholders you consulted with, for example: the serious harm test; and the reduction in the limitation period to name but two.

For that reason it is our intention to consult this year in order to test these and other aspects of the Report further with a view to bringing forward legislation to reform the law in this area thereafter. It is therefore likely that my officials will be in touch over the course of the summer to discuss the Report in more detail.

I am copying this letter to Margaret Mitchell, MSP who as Convener of the Justice Committee, has previously written to me to ask about Scottish Government intentions regarding the Report and whom I know has a continuing interest in the subject.

Yours sincerely,

ANNABELLE EWING