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Dear Lady Paton

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON THE LAW OF SUCCESSION

As you are no doubt aware, the Scottish Government, in February 2019, published a consultation paper looking at possible reforms to the law of succession. In the most recent Programme for Government, the Scottish Government committed to publishing its Response to the views received by spring 2020.

Overall, the attitudes of respondents to the substantive issues consulted on were generally mixed. There was no clear consensus about a possible way forward. On a number of miscellaneous issues, however, there was a degree of consensus and agreement. It is the Scottish Government's intention to take forward these discrete matters when we can.

On the more substantive issues it is our intention to explore whether research and analysis could be facilitated to allow us to engage with and better understand the views of the general public on intestate succession. Thereafter we may also want to consider referring the matter of intestate succession back to the Scottish Law Commission. The outcome of any research is likely to influence the terms of reference. We will of course keep the Commission sighted on any work we intend to take forward and as the way forward becomes clearer we will keep you updated on the likelihood of a referral.



**ASH DENHAM**

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