

**ANNEX A**



**Consultation Paper**

**The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Safeguarders Panel) Regulations 2012**

**RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM**

**Please Note** this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

**1. Name/Organisation**

**Organisation Name**

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

**Title** Mr  Ms  Mrs  Miss  Dr  **Please tick as appropriate**

**Surname**

Nick

**Forename**

Hobbs

**2. Postal Address**

Ochil House

Springkerse Business Park

Stirling

**Postcode** FK7 7XE

**Phone** 0300 200 1604

**Email**

nick.hobbs@scra.gsi.gov.uk

### 3. Permissions - I am responding as:...

**Individual** / **Group/Organisation**

Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes  No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick **ONE** of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes  No

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes

No

Please complete and return the **Respondent Information Form** along with the Consultation to:

[Childrens.hearings@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Childrens.hearings@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) by 9 October 2015.

Alternatively please post to:

The Children's Hearings Team  
Area 2B North  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

**Respondent form - The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Safeguarders Panel) Regulations 2012**

**Question 1: Do you agree that the regulations should be amended to remove the presumption of reappointment at the end of each term?**

**Answer: Yes / No**

**Please give reasons for your answer.**

Yes.

**Question 2: Do you agree that the presumption of reappointment should be replaced with an appropriate test based on a safeguarder's performance and completion of minimum training requirements, including pre-service and reappointment training?**

**Answer: Yes / No**

**Please give reasons for your answer.**

Yes. Safeguarders are an integral part of the Children's Hearings System and contribute enormously to its effective operation. Public and professional confidence in the role can only be increased by the introduction of a clear, transparent and robust system by which performance is measured and whereby the appropriate supports and training are provided to safeguarders. While the independence of the role is extremely important, we do not consider that it is infringed by the requirement for a safeguarder to meet certain minimum standards of training and professional performance in order to be reappointed.

**Question 3: Do you agree that safeguarders should be expected to demonstrate an adherence to national standards?**

**Answer: Yes / No**

**If your answer is yes, please provide your views on why it should be included.**

Yes. See answer to Q2.

**Question 4: Do you agree that feedback on safeguarder performance should be sought from system partners other than children's panel members and Children's Reporters?**

**Answer: Yes / No**

**Please give reasons for your answer.**

Yes. Other professionals such as social workers and Sheriffs will often have an important perspective. We consider that in particular it will be important to seek feedback where possible from children and families in a way that encourages their meaningful engagement.