

RESTRICTED

number of policy changes proposed by Ms Curran (then Minister for Communities) following consultation on the draft Bill. Over 260 consultation responses were received and these were almost all supportive of the main Bill proposals. There was particular support for the establishment of the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) as an independent regulator and non-ministerial officeholder of the Scottish Administration, with functions to register and regulate charities according to a new definition involving a public benefit test for all charities. Ministers will need to be prepared to deal with a number of sensitive issues which are likely to arise during the Bill's passage. These include the charity status of independent schools, charity status of certain public bodies and the need for charities already registered in England to register with OSCR if they have significant operations in Scotland.

22. The *News of the World* reported on Sunday, 7 November that the Parliament's **European and External Relations Committee would call Mr Henry McLeish** to give evidence on 23 November to the Committee's Inquiry into the "Promotion of Scotland Worldwide". The Committee Clerks have told officials that Mr McLeish has been invited but that his appearance is not yet confirmed. Mr McLeish has however given interviews claiming a lack of ambition by the Executive in promoting Scotland internationally. In July 2004 he called for a new Scottish "Department of External Affairs" and for broader representation of Scotland internationally, with overseas offices combining representatives of VisitScotland, SDI, the Executive and other agencies. The First Minister has recently announced that an Executive representative will be posted in China; and the Scottish Affairs Office in Washington has also been reinforced. The Deputy First Minister and Mr McCabe have agreed to give evidence to the Committee's Inquiry on 7 December.

23. The Public Petitions Committee debate on the petition of Mr Daly seeking an **Inquiry into abuse in List D and other residential establishments** is scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, 1 December. Mr Peacock appeared before the Committee on 29 September to explain and apologise for the delay in the Executive responding to the petition. Mr Peacock is due to meet with the In Care Abuse Survivors Group on Tuesday, 23 November 2004. It is hoped by the time of the debate to have a package of measures (funding, working group, review of law on limitation) to announce. Given the sensitivity of the subject matter there is likely to be significant media interest in the debate.

Bills Active in Parliament

24. **Annex C** tracks progress of Bills proceeding through Parliament and indicates any areas of controversy.

Whitehall, EU and Beyond

25. The Cabinet Office plan to publish a consultation on whether there is a need for a **Civil Service Bill** on Monday, 15 November, by means of Parliamentary statement and press release. The paper will be released in Scotland by way of Inspired Parliamentary Question. The civil service is a reserved matter, but there may be some comment on the extent to which a Bill may limit distinctive approaches to the management of the civil service in the Scottish Executive. The proposals are intended to do no more than put the present arrangements on a statutory footing. The Executive has been consulted on the terms of the paper. The paper adequately reflects the need for, and the importance of, delegated authority and flexibility of approach. Other matters covered by the consultation include the establishment of a statutory Civil Service Commission, including consultation with the First Minister on appointment of