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June 24, 2014

Aileen Campbell M.S.P.
Minister for Children and Young People
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Ms Campbell

Children and You People (Scotland) Bill

I am writing on behalf of the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland which met recently in Perth. During the report of the Church and Society Committee, one of the commissioners raised an additional item regarding the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill in connection with the provision for a 'named person' for every child. It was recognized that this legislation may be well intentioned and that there is a need to provide adequate safeguards for children who are regarded as being at risk. However many in our Assembly were concerned about the potential for this legislation to lead to inappropriate intervention in the lives of ordinary families where there is no question of children being at risk.

The following was agreed:

"The General Assembly express their grave disquiet at the provisions of the Scottish Government's "Named Person" scheme due to come into effect in 2016. The General Assembly is concerned at the wide scope of the legislation and the potential for undue intervention in ordinary family life.

It calls on the Scottish Government to take due cognizance of the disquiet felt and revisit the terms of the legislation to take account of many of the reasonable amendments set aside.

The General Assembly also express their support for the Christian Institute's seeking of a Judicial Review so that these potential clashes between state and family can be properly tempered."

You will note that the Assembly called on the Scottish Government *to take due cognizance of the disquiet felt and revisit the terms of the legislation to take account of many of the reasonable amendments set aside*. We would be interested to know whether the Government intends to take any action to respond to the concerns raised by a number of organisations before the legislation is fully implemented.

Yours sincerely

John O Fulton
General Secretary