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17th August 2004

Ms Myra Watson
Charity Bill Consultation
Voluntary Issues Unit
Scottish executive Development Department
2-G, Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH
EH6 6QQ

Dear Ms Watson

**EDINBURGH & LEITH AGE CONCERN
RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON CHARITY BILL**

I wish to comment on the proposal that legislation be put in place to enable existing charities to convert to the proposed new form of entity called a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

Edinburgh & Leith Age Concern(ELAC) is an organisation registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1965. It is important that any legislation to be put in place to enable conversion of an existing Scottish Charity into a SCIO also take account of charities such as ourselves registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1965. It would be desirable that legislation grant powers to enable such charities to convert to SCIO status, if they wished. We have no settled view on the matter at present, but may well want to consider conversion.

ELAC must currently report to the Financial Services Authority(FSA). What role would the FSA have with a charity that had converted from being registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1965, to that of a SCIO? If ELAC, and other charities like us, were able to convert to a SCIO, how would the interface between the FSA and OSCR operate and where does the regulatory authority lie? What likely implications would the answer to these questions posed have on charities such as ourselves? Finally, what will the cost implications be for charities such as Edinburgh & Leith Age Concern were the to convert to a SCIO?

Yours sincerely

**Su Millar White (Mrs)
Chief Executive**