Submission from Carole Henderson

Dear Sirs,

I write to ask that the Education and Culture Committee recommends amendments to the Education (Scotland) Bill to ensure a right to Gaelic medium education is conferred on parents whose proposal results in a report by a local authority agreeing that reasonable demand exists for such provision. The Bill, as it stands, would allow for a process to be followed, and a report to be published after a full assessment of demand has been made. However, there is nothing currently in Section 11 of the Bill that would compel a local authority to act on its conclusions and make new Gaelic provision. This is a weakness that could result in the Bill being a missed opportunity to deliver positive change in Gaelic education.

Also, there currently is no requirement for a local authority to provide ASL in the educational language of the student. Children in GME are being provided ASL in English despite their education being in Gaelic. Repeated calls to local authorities to change this and provide it in the most appropriate language for the child are being ignored.

Regards
Carole Henderson