Many thanks for your letter dated 26 November 2012. I have noted below a number of points that were made by the Committee in response to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee’s call for views:

- In general, the Education and Culture Committee supports the principle of committees undertaking post-legislative scrutiny;
- However, members noted that we already have the ability to undertake post-legislative scrutiny. Indeed, the Education and Culture Committee has carried out work that could be seen as post-legislative scrutiny, without it formally being described as such;
- The Committee is unsure what changes could be made to Standing Orders that would not result in post-legislative scrutiny becoming a mandatory requirement of committee work, which members feel would be unnecessary;
- The Committee noted the limitations on parliamentary time and is unsure how changes could be made to alleviate pressures on committees to allow for additional, more formal, post-legislative scrutiny;
- The Committee would be interested to know how other legislative bodies carry out post-legislative scrutiny.

STEWART MAXWELL MSP
CONVENER
EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
23 JANUARY 2013