

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills submission of 19 April 2023

PE1937/E: To give children the respect they deserve by providing options for privacy when changing for P.E.

Thank you for your letter of 22 March 2023 to Shirley-Anne Somerville, the then Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, regarding the [Learning Estate Strategy](#) (LES). I am replying as I am the new Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 places a statutory responsibility on all local authorities to manage and maintain their school estate. Therefore, the design and operation of schools - including changing and toilet facilities - is managed by local authorities to best suit their individual circumstances, and the needs of specific pupil cohorts.

At present, we do not have any plans to update the LES. However, the Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust remain committed to working closely with local authorities in relation to their school estate.

The LES underpins the £2 billion Learning Estate Investment Programme and sets out the strategic approach for managing Scotland's learning estate. It was co-produced by the Scottish Government and COSLA, and makes clear that learning environments should support the wellbeing of all learners and meet varying needs to support inclusion for all learners.

In addition, the LES highlights that good consultation about learning environments, direct engagement with learners and communities about their needs and experiences, and an involvement in decision making processes, should lead to better outcomes for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

JENNY GILRUTH

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills