

# Scottish Government submission of 25 January 2023

## PE1990/A: Introduce a Scottish Parliament question session for young people

Your e-mail of 30 November sought comments from the Scottish Government on a series of petitions, including the petition referenced above. This letter offers a response to the subject matter of Petition PE1990.

You noted that the introduction of a new session in the Parliament Debating Chamber would likely fall within the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament, if the session was deemed to constitute formal proceedings. However, you considered that the Committee would welcome a view on the petition in terms of any informal session which could be brought forward by the Scottish Government.

Children and young people (CYP) are engaged with the Scottish Government at the most senior level.

Cabinet Ministers hold an annual meeting with CYP, which demonstrates the Government's commitment to meaningfully and credibly engage with CYP on issues that matter most to them. In line with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), it gives CYP the opportunity to influence national decisions, effectively participate in wider civic society and shape the future Scotland they want to live in. At this meeting, CYP have the opportunity to represent the views of their peers from across Scotland and lead discussions by raising issues that matter most to Scotland's CYP and to inform the government's agenda by collectively agreeing to actions for the coming year.

The seventh annual meeting of Cabinet with children and young people is supported by both the Children's Parliament and the Scottish Youth Parliament and is scheduled for 28 March 2023 in Bute House.

The Scottish Government Executive Team, chaired by Permanent Secretary, hold annual meetings with children from Children's Parliament, and Young People from the Scottish Youth Parliament. These engagement provide an opportunity for CYP to engage with the most senior government officials to discuss issues of significance to

CYP in Scotland. Members of the Children's Parliament (MCPs) met in June 2022, and Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) met in November 2022.

I hope the information in this letter is helpful to the Committee.