

Clarification about some of the evidence from Douglas Hutchison, Executive Director of Education, Glasgow City Council regarding the evidence session with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

I watched the committee meeting recently where Bòrd na Gàidhlig were providing evidence and wanted to clarify some points they made relating to Glasgow City Council. Mr Whannel stated that 180 parents applied for a place at P1 but Glasgow City Council had imposed a cap at 140. In fact, the maximum number applying was 172 by November 2021. That number means that instead of 40 children seeking and not getting a place at P1 the number was 32. As of mid-June that number has come down and 22 children are now on a waiting list.

My own view is that Mr Whannel gave the committee the impression that Glasgow had imposed an arbitrary cap, which is not accurate. The cap is to ensure that all those starting at P1 will have a place at S1 because without the cap some would have to transfer to English medium education at S1. The problem will resolve once we have completed the building of the new primary school and we are also progressing a further school with the site all but settled. I have written to the Bòrd indicating my disappointment at the way in which Glasgow was characterised but wanted to correct the inaccurate figures they gave the committee.