



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

Jenny Gilruth MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Scottish Government

T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email only—

ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

6 October 2023

Dear Cabinet Secretary

I am writing on behalf of the Education, Children, and Young People Committee to request further information on reform to qualifications, skills, and education in Scotland.

The Committee welcomes your commitment to delivering excellence and equity in education across Scotland per the [Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2023-2024](#). However, the Committee seeks clarification on the outstanding matters outlined below.

In its report of 21 June 2021 entitled [Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence: Into the Future](#), the OECD formulated several recommendations to support and help sustain education reform in Scotland, improve the Curriculum for Excellence, and deliver enhanced outcomes for all learners.

Reliant on the OECD's findings, the four main recommendations of that report, each containing sub-recommendations, are—

- Balancing the “*Curriculum for Excellence so students can fully benefit from a coherent learning experience from 3 to 18 years*”;
- Combining “*effective collaboration with clear roles and responsibilities*”;
- Consolidating “*institutional policy processes for effective change*”; and
- Leading “*the next steps for Curriculum for Excellence with a long-term view*”.

The Committee asks for an update on your action/delivery plan to implement these recommendations and their related sub-recommendations and to deliver structural and curricular reform.

The Committee recognises that several reports have been published recently, which formulate recommendations for reform to qualifications, skills, and education in Scotland. The Committee also acknowledges that the Scottish Government is yet to respond to a number of these reports and that the implementation of the OECD recommendations will necessarily have to be considered in light of the wider education reform landscape.

Nonetheless, it would be helpful to know–

- Where the implementation of the OECD recommendations sits in your outcome delivery plans;
- What steps you have taken to date to implement them and track their impact on structures and the current policy framework;
- What the expected timescales are for delivering these.

The Committee would welcome a response by **Friday 3 November 2023**.

Kind regards

Sue Webber MSP
Convener