

Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise
Ministear airson Clann, Daoine Òga is Cumail ris a' Ghealladh
Natalie Don MSP
Natalie Don BPA



Sue Webber MSP
Convener - Education, Children and Young People Committee

By email: ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

11 January 2024

Dear Convener,

In my letter to the Education, Children and Young People Committee dated 28th November 2023, I committed to providing an update to the committee following my planned meeting to discuss cross-border placements with David Johnston MP, Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing which was due to take place on Wednesday 20th December 2023.

I can now confirm that the meeting went ahead on this date and was very positive and constructive, offering me the opportunity to raise with Mr Johnston a number of key risks which I consider to be critical in requiring us all to robustly manage the issue of cross-border placements. I was also able to hear from Mr Johnston about ongoing work in England with regards to addressing their care capacity issue.

At the meeting, I had the opportunity to seek from Mr Johnston his commitment to visibility and leadership on this important issue and sought his continuing support at both official and Ministerial level with regards to the key changes and processes we are aiming to put in place for cross-border placements through the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill and beyond. I am pleased to be able to update the committee that alongside our officials, who are already working together on this matter, both myself and Mr Johnston were in agreement that we should also continue to engage and work collaboratively. This will be especially important as we look beyond the Bill's passage through Parliament and towards implementation of a new framework.

I am grateful for the committee's continued patience on this matter and I hope that this update is helpful.

NATALIE DON

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