

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
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Sgilean

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Douglas Ross MSP

Convener

Education, Children and Young People

Committee

25 June 2025

Dear Convener,

In my recent appearance at the Education, Children and Young Peoples Committee on 11 June, I referenced the work of the Curriculum Improvement Cycle and reforms to qualifications and assessment and I wanted to write to the Education and Skills Committee to provide further detail on progress.

In this year's Programme for Government the Scottish Government committed to setting out a single combined timeline for curriculum improvement and reforms to qualifications and assessment in June 2025.

The Scottish Government has worked closely with our lead delivery partners Education Scotland and the SQA to produce a timeline for the Curriculum Improvement Cycle and Reforms to Qualifications and Assessment. The document sets out progress to date and next steps and was published on Monday 23 June: [Curriculum, Qualifications and Assessment Reform – Progress to Date and Next Steps - gov.scot](#).

The publication provides an initial timeline to give clarity to partners and practitioners across the education and skills system, as well as to parents and carers and young people, about when they will start to see changes in teaching and assessment.

While change to curriculum, qualifications and assessment should be expected, the focus will remain on the enhancement of excellent learning and teaching as we know this will make the greatest impact on outcomes for our children and young people.

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The work aims to support more consistent teaching, learning and assessment experiences, and improved attainment and achievement of our children and young people.

The Scottish Government is actively delivering a programme of reform that is coherent, realistic, practical and deliverable.

I hope that this provides a helpful update on this important package of curriculum improvement work as linked to wider reform including the reform of our national bodies to support the changes and improvements that are required.

If the Committee would find it helpful, Education Scotland and Scottish Government officials can provide an additional private briefing session to share further detail on the emerging work, and to enable some Q&A and discussion to help inform the process.

Yours sincerely,

JENNY GILRUTH

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