

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
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Jenny Gilruth MSP
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Douglas Ross MSP
Convenor
Education, Children and Young People Committee

BY EMAIL

Dear Convenor,

The passage of the Education (Scotland) Bill is a significant milestone for the education system, and I welcome the open dialogue I have had with members as we have collectively improved the legislation as it has progressed through the parliamentary stages.

As I have said previously, the Bill provides the scaffolding that will support the wider reform of the education system and work to deliver reform is also taking place outside of the legislation to ensure that Scotland's national education landscape is strengthened. I want to write to you officially to confirm next steps in that regard.

As announced in June 2024, Education Scotland will become a curriculum focused organisation. The Scottish Government is continuing to work alongside Education Scotland to ensure a smooth transition to its newer, more streamlined remit in Autumn 2025.

I have written to you separately on the matter of the publication of the timeline on curriculum, qualifications and assessment reform on Monday 23 June, but it would be remiss of me not to mention it again here. This paper set out the progress to date and next steps and will 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.

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We also want to make sure that Scotland's children and young people have high quality learning experiences and in order to achieve this we need to better support our teachers and education practitioners. A new Centre for Teaching Excellence is due to be operational at the beginning of the 2025/26 academic year. It will be hosted by the University of Glasgow and will play a principal role in helping teachers to develop, use and share excellent pedagogical practice across the country.

From the beginning, my approach was to work collaboratively with all of you in order to deliver a suite of reform that is sustainable, long-lasting and improves the outcomes for people who experience and deliver education in Scotland. For this reason, I thank you again for your constructive challenges and I look forward to continuing to work with you closely on education matters throughout the remainder of this parliament.

Yours sincerely,

JENNY GILRUTH

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