

Douglas Ross MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People
Committee
Scottish Parliament
By email: ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

13 May 2025

Dear Convener,

I am writing regarding the regulations governing the appeals process for school admission placing requests and pupil exclusion hearings before an education appeal committee.

I wrote to you on 17 February 2025 regarding the proposed plan to introduce new regulations that continue the use of remote technology for school admission and exclusion appeal hearings, while also ensuring that appellants are given the choice to attend hearings in person if they prefer.

I am pleased to inform you that the regulations will be laid before the Scottish Parliament on 15 May. Subject to Parliamentary approval, the regulations are scheduled to come into force on 1 August 2025, aligning with the start of the next academic year.

The current regulations, which allow the use of remote technology in appeal hearings, are amended to ensure appellants continue to have the ability to attend a hearing in person and require the consent of all parties if fully remote hearings are held. The amendments also provide for hearings to be held partly in person and partly remotely but, in relation to such hearings (which are most likely to be combined hearings with more than one appellant), an appellant who wishes to attend in person can do so and all members of the appeal committee must attend in person. This will ensure that appellants have a clear and meaningful choice regarding the format of the hearing they participate in. This reflects the feedback received through the consultation published earlier this year ([Use of remote technology in school admission and exclusion appeal hearings: Consultation Analysis - gov.scot](#)), which emphasised the importance of preserving the flexibility that remote hearings provide while safeguarding the right of appellants to participate in appeal hearings in person if they wish.

Yours sincerely,

JENNY GILRUTH