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Education, Children and Young People Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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12 June 2025

Dear Convener,

During my evidence session to discuss the Social Security Information-Sharing (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 on 2 April and my follow up letter of 29 April, I undertook to provide further updates on Test of Change phase of the Free School Meals Programme.

As you are aware, the Test of Change phase will support those in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment in S1 to 3 and is expected that this will run for a school year starting from August 2025 and running to July 2026.

I have now considered the applications from the 17 local authorities who indicated a willingness to participate in this phase of the programme and I am pleased to let you know that the following local authorities will take part: Aberdeen, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Fife, Glasgow, Moray, North Ayrshire, Shetland, and South Lanarkshire. These participants represent a variety of geographical areas; urban, semi-urban, rural and islands and will allow us to support families across Scotland.

I have previously mentioned that this work will be independently evaluated and we are currently undertaking an exercise to appoint the researchers to take this work forward.

I trust that the Committee finds this update helpful.

**JENNY GILRUTH**

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