



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education, Children and Young People Committee

Natalie Don-Innes MSP
Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
Scottish Government

4 April 2025

Dear Minister

Financial Resolution for the Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill

In your [response to the Committee's Stage 1 report on the Schools \(Residential Outdoor Education\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#), you stated that the Scottish Government will only lodge a Financial Resolution if and when affordability of the provisions, and other practical implementation challenges, can be addressed.

During the [Stage 1 debate on the Schools \(Residential Outdoor Education\) \(Scotland\) Bill on Thursday 27 March](#), you committed to further engagement with the Member in Charge, regarding the affordability and implementation challenges, should the Parliament support the general principles of the Bill.

As you will be aware, [Rule 9.12 of Standing Orders](#) states—

3A. Where a Bill contains provisions the likely effect of which would be to increase significantly expenditure payable out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund for any purpose, no proceedings may be taken on the Bill at any Stage after Stage 1 unless the Parliament has by resolution agreed to the increase in expenditure being payable out of that Fund.

And that —

7. Only a member of the Scottish Government or a junior Scottish Minister may give notice of a motion for a Financial Resolution. The motion may be moved only by a member of the Scottish Government or junior Scottish Minister, whether or not that person has given notice of it or indicated support for it. Such a motion may not be amended.

Given that parliamentary procedure allows 6 months for a Financial Resolution to be lodged following completion of Stage 1, the Committee seeks further clarification regarding—

Contact: Education, Children and Young People Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email ecyp.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

- How the Scottish Government plans to engage with the Member on the Financial Resolution.
- The assurances required by the Minister in order to bring forward a Financial Resolution.
- The timescales for this engagement.
- Whether there will be an opportunity for further Parliamentary debate (e.g. on potential funding models to deliver universal residential outdoor education), prior to a decision being made on the Financial Resolution.
- Should the government ultimately decide not to lodge a Financial Resolution, and allow this Bill to fall, whether the Scottish Government will commit to making a statement to Parliament setting out its reasons for doing so? The Committee notes that there is currently no mechanism available to the Parliament to vote on the Scottish Government's decision not to lodge a Financial Resolution. Given that the Bill was passed by the Parliament at Stage 1, providing this statement would provide further accountability and allow Members to place their views on record.

The Committee requests a response by **6 May 2025** and we look forward to receiving your answers to these points.

I am copying this to the Minister for Parliamentary Business, for his information.

Yours sincerely

**DOUGLAS ROSS MSP
CONVENER**

cc. Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Parliamentary Business