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Douglas Ross MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People
Committee
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5 June 2025

Dear Convener,

As you aware the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills is recused from The Promise so I thank you for granting me the opportunity to update the Committee on the specific points below ahead of the Committee session on 11 June.

In recent evidence to the Committee, the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise stated she hoped the proposed Promise Bill would be introduced ahead of summer recess. Since then, the Commissioner for Children and Young People expressed to the Committee her concerns about the timescale for scrutiny of the proposed Bill. The Committee would welcome an update on:

- *what areas of The Promise the proposed Bill is likely to legislate for;*
- *whether it will be introduced ahead of summer recess;*
- *what consideration the Scottish Government has given to the time needed to ensure effective scrutiny of the Bill.*

At the last Committee session I confirmed my intention to bring forward a Bill to Parliament to address legislative aspects relating to keeping the Promise. This commitment is further confirmed in the Programme for Government published on 6 May.

I am respectful to the concerns raised by the Committee regarding timescale and I can confirm that it remains my intention to introduce the Bill in June. The Promise is a key commitment for both the Scottish Government, and all parties across the Parliament, and together we have an opportunity through this legislation to introduce measures that will directly support the change required.

I look forward to the opportunity to engage with the Committee in due course as the Bill progresses. I would welcome also the opportunity to speak directly with you and members of the Committee to hear your thoughts and views on what is proposed and any further considerations that you may have once you have seen the detail of the Bill.

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In developing the Bill, the Scottish Government has carefully considered the views gathered through consultation undertaken last year, including the next stages of reform of the children's hearing system; the future of foster care; the definition of care experience; and the support available to those moving on from care.

I am pleased to confirm that the Bill will be introduced before the Summer recess, with a final date currently under consideration with Parliament, and strongly welcome the opportunity to engage with members from across the Chamber and the Committee to consider further the proposed legislative change.

Yours sincerely,

NATALIE DON-INNES
Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

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