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Karen Adam MSP
Convener, Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice
Committee

By email:

Copied to:
Presiding Officer;
Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans;
Party business managers;
Alex Cole-Hamilton

18 March 2026

Dear Convener

I write to follow up on previous correspondence and to provide a further update to the Parliamentary Question lodged by Mr Cole-Hamilton on 25 November 2025 ([S6W-42150](#)) regarding the Scottish Government's work to develop a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill.

I would like to inform you that the Scottish Government has today published a paper setting out current thinking on the potential provisions of an LDAN Bill and includes some illustrative draft provisions. As set out in the 2024 Programme for Government, the Scottish Government committed to publishing draft provisions as the next step in the process to develop a proposed LDAN Bill.

It is accompanied by a partial Equality Impact Assessment and a Costs and Benefits Considerations paper. Together, these papers are intended to support transparency and further engagement, and to provide a foundation for any future consideration of legislation.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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The paper, accompanying papers, and alternative accessible versions can be found in the below links:

- Working together towards a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: [Current Proposals for Potential Bill Provisions](#)
- Working together towards a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: [Partial Equality Impact Assessment](#)
- Working together towards a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: [Costs and benefits considerations](#)

The Scottish Government recognises that legislation alone will not address all of the challenges faced by people with learning disabilities, autistic people and neurodivergent people. The paper reflects a focused legislative approach and sits alongside wider policy and delivery activity across Government.

Given the timing within the current Parliamentary session, it will be for a future government to decide how to take this work forward, should it wish to do so. The publication of this paper is intended to support future considerations by making available the policy development, engagement and evidence gathered to date.

I would like to thank the Committee for its interest in this work.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Arthur MSP

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