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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Karen Adam
Convener of the Education and Gaelic Committee
By email

17 November 2026

Dear Convener,

Earlier this month, Education Scotland published the full draft Technical Curriculum, Framework, representing a significant step forward in the delivery of the most substantial update to Scotland's curriculum in over a decade. Publication of the framework marks the beginning of the next phase of engagement and testing, ensuring that the curriculum continues to be shaped by the expertise and experience of practitioners before final materials are published in Spring 2027.

To coincide with this milestone, I announced that agreement has been reached through the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) to provide two additional in-service days during academic year 2026/27 to support implementation of the revised curriculum. These days will provide dedicated time for teachers to engage with the draft materials, ensuring high-quality learning and teaching for young people once the updated curriculum is implemented in August 2028. Local authorities are required to seek an exemption to Regulation 5 of the Schools General (Scotland) Regulations 1975 to facilitate these additional closure days.

Whilst I recognise that these additional in-service days will create some disruption for learners and their families, this must be balanced against the need to provide teachers with sufficient time and support for the effective and well-managed implementation of the new curriculum. Teacher Professional Associations have been consistently clear with me that additional in-service time is necessary to achieve this, and I share their view that dedicated time for professional learning and preparation will be essential to getting implementation right. I am equally clear, however, that disruption should be minimised wherever possible and have therefore strongly encouraged local authorities to align the additional days with existing school holidays.

The two additional days agreed for 2026/27 are one element of a much wider support package that will be needed as we move towards implementation. A short-term working group, comprising representatives of local government, the teaching profession and the Scottish Government, including Education Scotland, will be established to consider what additional in-

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service days will be required in future academic years to support reform as part of the wider package of support for the profession.

The draft framework materials are now being tested with a sample of practitioners. Feedback from this phase will inform further refinement over the coming months, with an advanced draft scheduled for publication in January 2027. Publication of the advanced draft will support a broader programme of engagement, providing a further opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to and shape the final framework before publication in spring 2027. This collaborative approach will help ensure that the refreshed curriculum is both ambitious and deliverable, and that practitioners are supported throughout implementation.

I will continue to keep the Committee informed of progress as we move towards the publication of the advanced draft in January 2027 and onwards towards adoption of the updated curriculum.

Yours sincerely,



MÀIRI MCALLAN

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