

Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport,
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Deoch agus Drugaichean
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Katie Hagmann, MSP
Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice
Committee

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Dear Katie

I am writing to update the Committee on the future of the proposed Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill.

As set out in the Programme for Government, Ministers remain strongly committed to improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities, autistic people and neurodivergent people through a programme of reform, service improvement and investment.

While legislation can be an important tool for driving change, Ministers have concluded that progress is needed now through policy reform, service improvement and targeted investment, rather than a legislative process which would take several years to complete and implement. Our focus is therefore on delivering practical improvements now, while retaining the option of future legislation should evidence show that additional statutory measures are required.

As set out in the Programme for Government and through other commitments, work is already underway in a number of key areas, including:

- improving neurodevelopmental support so people can access the right support at the right time;
- expanding Learning Disability Annual Health Checks;
- delivering the Coming Home Action Plan;
- increasing the availability of Changing Places Toilets; and continuing improvement work across health, education and wider public services.

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The significant evidence, engagement and lived experience gathered through development of the LDAN Bill has already informed Government thinking and will continue to shape future policy and delivery.

I would also like to recognise the Committee's significant contribution to this agenda over recent years, including its March 2026 inquiry into Neurodivergence in Scotland. The evidence gathered through that inquiry has helped highlight the barriers, inequalities and challenges experienced by neurodivergent people across Scotland, as well as the need for improved support and greater accountability. Alongside the evidence gathered through development of the LDAN Bill, the Committee's work has informed the Scottish Government's understanding of where change is needed and continues to shape the reforms and improvement activity being taken forward.

Importantly, the option of future legislation remains open. Ministers recognise that legislation can play an important role in driving accountability and securing lasting change. We will continue to review the impact of the reforms and improvements being taken forward and will keep the case for future legislation under consideration if further statutory measures are required to achieve the outcomes that people expect and deserve.

Thank you for the Committee's continued interest in equality, human rights and neurodivergence issues.

Yours sincerely,

MAREE TODD MSP
MINISTER FOR MENTAL WELLBEING, PUBLIC HEALTH, SPORT, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

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