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Chief Executives  
Directors of Education

By email

28 January 2021

Dear colleague

### **Educational Continuity (No.8) Direction**

I wrote to you on 8 January 2021 regarding the Educational Continuity (No. 7) Direction, which made various provisions regarding the operation of schools and early years settings for the period until 1 February 2021. Having had regard to the advice of the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, I have concluded that it is necessary and proportionate to give a further direction to reflect the continued position.

I therefore enclose the Educational Continuity (No.8) Direction, given under paragraph 11(1) of Part 2 of schedule 17 (Temporary Continuity Directions etc: Education, Training and Childcare) of the Coronavirus Act 2020, which will be in force from 1 February 2021. This will continue to provide important clarity on the expectations and legal position of education authorities during this phase of the current public health emergency. I also enclose an associated Guidance Note.

This direction will have effect until 23.59 on 17 February 2021 and it will be reviewed within 21 days beginning with the date on which the direction is given.

This direction supports and provides a legal basis for the provisions set out in the Supplementary Guidance published on 6 January 2021 and updated on the 21 January 2021.

Yours Sincerely

**JOHN SWINNEY**

