



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP  
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Dear Shirley-Anne

I am writing to update you on the Committee's consideration so far of the LCM on the Higher Education and Research Bill. The Committee sought a number of submissions in relation to the LCM and has agreed to hold an evidence session on issues raised in them on 16th November.

The session will involve all those that submitted to the Committee. UCU Scotland, NUS Scotland, Universities Scotland and RSE will form a panel and then the Scottish Funding Council will be invited to comment during their pre-budget scrutiny evidence session. The LCM evidence will primarily focus on the research elements of the Bill and also on any wider concerns the panel members have on the Bill's impact in Scotland.

I attach a [link to the submissions](#) for your information. I should be grateful to receive: your thoughts on the broad themes of these submissions; any update you wish to provide on the Government's engagement at UK level on the Bill; and your views on how the Bill has changed at the Committee amendment stage. Your response would be appreciated by noon on Friday 11th November so it can issue with Committee papers that afternoon.

Please also note that, following the session on the 16th, should the Committee have any outstanding issues it wants a Scottish Government perspective on, it will seek to hold an evidence session with you on Wednesday 23rd November. I will confirm after the meeting on the 16th whether a session with you is required or whether the Committee will report straight to Parliament at that stage.

The Clerk to the Committee, Roz Thomson, is happy to discuss further with your officials.

Yours sincerely

**JAMES DORNAN MSP  
CONVENER**