Dear John

The Committee agreed that I write to you to ask for an update from the Scottish Government on the publication of the criteria to measure the attainment gap and the milestones for delivery.

You will recall that in your letter to the Committee dated 19 October 2016, you indicated that you intended to “engage with key stakeholders to discuss plans to reduce the gap, together with any possible milestones towards delivery, and I will inform the Committee of these by the middle of [2017].” The Committee would welcome an update on this work.

The Committee is aware that the 2017 National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan for Scottish Education refers to the criteria for measuring the attainment gap and the Research Strategy for Scottish Education also makes a number of commitments to undertake work on understanding the attainment gap including developing appropriate indicators for public accountability on progress towards closing the attainment gap and a long-term development of a bespoke index of social background. The Committee would welcome any more details you can provide on the progress of this work and how the attainment gap will be measured.

Yours sincerely

JAMES DORNAN MSP
CONVENER