



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education

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BY E-MAIL

7 May 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

Erasmus+

I am writing to you on behalf of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee of the Scottish Parliament. My Committee has a long-standing interest in the operation of the Erasmus + programme. In a recent evidence session to the Committee, the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations noted in relation to the recent 'value-for-money' exercise into Erasmus + being undertaken by your department, that—

“We are aware of the UK Government's value-for- money exercise on Erasmus +, Horizon 2020 and other programmes, and we understood that the process concluded that Erasmus+ is not deserving of continued support under the value-for-money criteria. We have tried to influence those criteria, and we have made it very clear that we think that the consideration of the criteria has been flawed”¹.

I recognise that the issue of what form the UK's participation in the Erasmus + programme would take is a matter for the proposed 'future relationship' negotiations between the UK and the EU. However, the suggestion that the Erasmus + programme would not be considered 'value-for- money' by the UK Government is of significant concern to my Committee. I would therefore be grateful if you could detail what assessment your department has made of the 'value-for-money' of participation in the

¹ Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee, Official Report, [25 April 2019](#), Col.28.

Erasmus + programme and what view the UK Government has taken with regard to continued participation in the scheme.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan McAlpine', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joan McAlpine
Convener
Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee