



Department
for Education

Joan McAlpine
Convener
Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Chris Skidmore MP
Minister of State for Universities, Science,
Research and Innovation.

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

+44 (0) 20 7215 5000
www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus
enquiries@beis.gov.uk
www.gov.uk

Our ref: 2019-0017670

22nd May 2019

Dear Ms McAlpine,

Thank you for your letter of 7 May, addressed to the Secretary of State for Education, about the Erasmus + programme. I am replying as this matter falls within my portfolio.

As you know, the UK as a whole participates in the current Erasmus+ programme and the Department for Education (DfE) is the National Authority for the programme in the UK.

The UK government values international exchange and collaboration in education and training as part of its vision for a Global Britain. The Withdrawal Agreement ensures that UK entities will be able to continue accessing funding from Erasmus+ for the lifetime of projects funded under the current Multiannual Financial Framework. UK-based organisations and individuals will be able to bid for funding and participate in and lead consortia until programme closure.

With regard to the Erasmus+ successor programme, running from 2021 until 2027, we are open to participation, though we recognise that we would need to agree a fair and financial contribution for that to happen. As you note in your letter, our participation in the future Erasmus+ programme is subject to the upcoming negotiations about our future relationship with the EU.

You refer to the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations, raising in your committee meeting of 25 April that we are considering the value for money of the UK's participation in the Erasmus+ programme. This work is ongoing, and is part of a wider, cross-government exercise on considering value for money of EU programmes. While negotiations about the UK's future relationship with the EU are still to come, it would not be appropriate to set out the details of our analysis at this stage. Of course, as is the duty of a responsible government, we will need to fully consider the balance between supporting international mobility and ensuring value for money for the taxpayer.

DfE officials and I regularly discuss issues relating to EU Exit, including Erasmus+, with our colleagues in the Scottish Government. We are committed to continued close engagement with Scotland, as is the case with all devolved administrations, and we will ensure that their views are taken into account with regards to the future of the Erasmus+ programme.

Thank you again for your committee's consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,


CHRIS SKIDMORE MP