Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter of 12 December 2018 about the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's consideration of Recommendation 24 of the Commission on Parliamentary Reform and specifically provision to ensure that Members with childcare responsibilities, including nursing mothers, are able to participate in Chamber business.

As you may be aware, I advised business managers early this year that should Members find it necessary, then they should feel free to bring their babies into the Chamber. Although the situation has yet to arise this session, I would add that I would always support any mother who wished to breastfeed in the Chamber, whether an MSP or visitor in the public gallery.

On the issue of flexibility around the creche, I would be happy to discuss your letter with my colleagues on the Corporate Body at a meeting early in the New Year and will respond fully thereafter.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP
Presiding Officer