

Ministear airson Cùram-chloinne agus Tràth-  
bhliadhnaichean  
Minister for Childcare and Early Years  
Mark McDonald BPA/MSP



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

F/T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot  
Ms Liz Millership

Your ref:  
Our ref: 2017/0004469  
February 2017

Dear Liz Millership,

Thank you for your email of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 inviting Mark McDonald, MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early years, to your upcoming child rights seminar, "The UNCRC going forward" on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. Unfortunately, due to diary pressures, Mr McDonald is unable to attend the upcoming seminar, but has asked me to pass on his best wishes for a successful event.

Yours sincerely

  
**Private Secretary**



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Dear Liz Millership,

Thank you for your email of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 inviting Mark McDonald, MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early years, to your upcoming child rights seminar, "The UNCRC going forward" on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017.

Mr McDonald would be delighted to accept your invitation. I would be grateful if you could contact his private office at [MinisterCEY@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEY@gov.scot) to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely

  
Private Secretary



**PS Minute**  
**ADVICE FOR: Mark McDonald MSP**

<b>MACCS Case Number:</b>	2017/0004469	<b>Respond by: 03/03/2017</b>	
<b>Correspondent/Organisation:</b>	[REDACTED] Policy and Communications Officer, Together		
<b>Date and time of Event:</b>	Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2017, 9:30am – 4:00pm		
<b>Location of Event:</b>	Scottish Universities Insight Institute, Collins Building, 22 Richmond St, Glasgow, G1 1XQ		
<b>Overview of invitation and audience profile:</b>	<p>The “UNCRC Going Forward” is the final seminar forming part of a series of 4 one-day seminars which seek to examine the UNCRC from the perspectives of law, practice, policy and next steps. The seminar series will explore how civil society, children and young people and academia can work with government to ensure the UNCRC is further taken forward across Scotland. The Minister is invited to attend the final seminar as a speaker.</p> <p>The guest list will include child law specialists and academics including representatives from Wales, Ireland and Scotland, as well as attendees from third sector representatives such as Clan Childlaw. Although the Minister is invited to attend the full duration of the seminar from 9:30am – 4:00pm, Together has confirmed the Minister could attend the afternoon session from 2:30 – 4:00pm where his speech would take place.</p> <p>Together included a section on their <a href="#">eventbrite page</a> for the first seminar titled “Who should attend The UNCRC in Law” which reads: “The seminars are intended to be cross-cutting and multi-sectoral. They are targeted at all those working with and for children and young people, and are an opportunity for legal practitioners and academics to share their expertise with others.”</p>		
<b>Has the Minister been asked to attend on behalf of FM?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<p>Accept.</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> This is a good opportunity for the Minister to provide insight to stakeholders on Scotland’s current position on incorporation of the UNCRC. The final seminar aims to “tie everything together” and the Minister could draw conclusion on SG’s commitment to apply the principles of the Convention on an issue by issue basis, wherever we consider it right and appropriate to do so.</p> <p>The Minister may wish to attend for the full duration of the event – however, we are aware that due to diary pressures it may not be possible to do so, in</p>		

## PS Minute

	which case we would recommend the Minister could attend from 2:30 – 4:00pm at which point his speech will take place.	
	If recommendation is to accept, has this advice been agreed with your Head of Division? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Has another Minister been asked to attend:</b>	No.	
<b>Main theme that the event supports:</b>	Safer and Stronger.	
<b>Main purpose of attending:</b> <i>(Tick as many as apply)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain new policy or a major policy shift <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Reinforce or illustrate existing policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Improve relations with stakeholders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Encourage participation in consultation <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Recognise contribution to policy implementation <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Announce funding <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Other (please specify): Speaker <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>	
<b>Main message to communicate:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are committed to making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up. This means putting children and their rights at the heart of our communities and our public services</li> <li>• Scottish Ministers have an established record in promoting and safeguarding children's rights, in line with our commitment to ensuring that all children and young people have the best possible start to life, regardless of their circumstances.</li> </ul>	
<b>Most appropriate type of Ministerial input:</b>	Speaker.	
<b>Private Office view:</b>	Diary free	
	Private Office contact:	[REDACTED]
<b>Communications Office view:</b>	Comments:	Comms should always provide a view on external events
	Communications Office contact:	Insert Name and Ext
<b>Action Officer:</b>	[REDACTED]	

**Subject:** FW: Mark McDonald SUII #4

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 24 May 2017 12:51

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Mark McDonald SUII #4

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This fourth and final seminar will bring together the learning, experience and proposals of the previous three seminars in order to develop a shared and sustainable model to take forward children's rights in Scotland.

To recap, Mark will attend the afternoon session from 1:15pm, participating in a 15-minute presentation through which he will reflect on discussions held throughout the afternoon and set out his view of what actions can be taken forward by the Scottish Government to further the UNCRC in Scotland. Next on the agenda will be a panel discussion, which will consist of Mark, the new Children and Young People's Commissioner Bruce Adamson, and Juliet. This will be a chance for delegates to ask some of the questions arising from the afternoon's discussions.

The seminar will take place next Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June in Glasgow at the following address:

Scottish Universities Insight Institute  
University of Strathclyde  
Collins Building  
22 Richmond Street  
Glasgow  
G1 1XQ

I have attached all the documentation for the seminar that may be helpful, including:

- Agenda
- Delegate list
- Biographies
- Delegate briefing

In addition, these post-seminar briefing documents were given as hard copies to the Minister at last Thursday's meeting, but it may be useful to have them to hand online below:

- [The UNCRC in Law](#) (February)
- [The UNCRC in Practice](#) (March)
- [The UNCRC in Policy](#) (April)

The summary videos taken at each of the seminars can also be found at the bottom of the webpage [here](#). Mark has kindly agreed to input a very short summary of his presentation to include in the fourth video that will accompany this final seminar – these videos are created by Young Scot.

Finally, many of the speakers throughout the seminar series have been writing a short blog piece each (approx. 600 words) to highlight their key messages delivered through their presentation. These blogs have generated much interest and scope for discussion around the topics addressed at the seminar series – would it be possible to ask

Mark to do a short reflective blog piece shortly after the seminar series ends next week? Examples of previous seminar blogs can be found [here](#).

Please do let us know if you require any more information.

Kind regards,

■

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 May 2017 09:10  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SUII event

Hi ■

We are preparing the Minister's briefing pack for the next SUII event.

I would be grateful if you could forward to me the programme for the event. Apologies, but I will need this (even in draft form) by **close tomorrow**.

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Children's Rights and Wellbeing  
Scottish Government

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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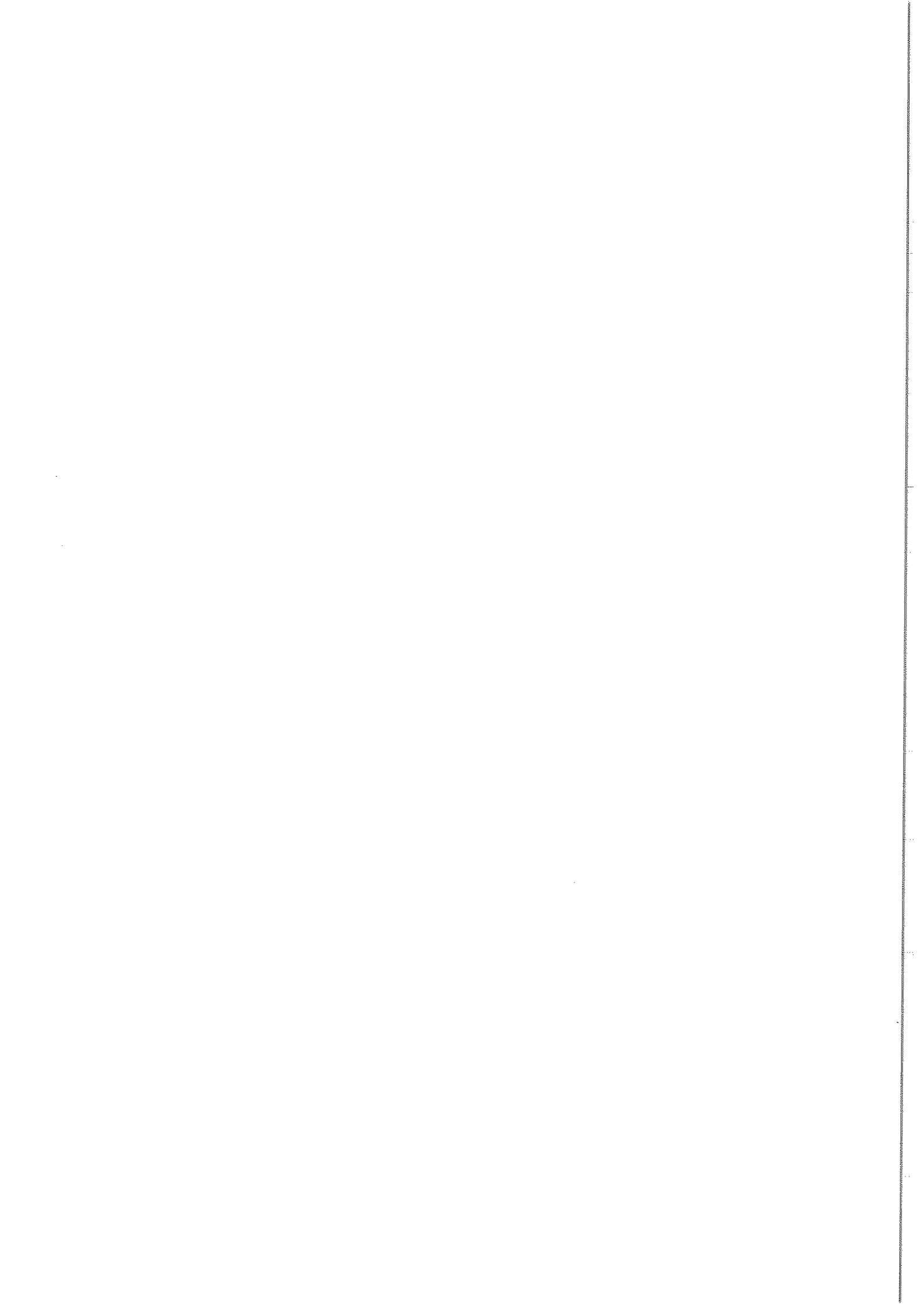
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[REDACTED]

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**Subject:**

FW: FW: Together Scotland - SUII event - 1 June - briefing

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 25 May 2017 08:38

**To:** Minister for Childcare and Early Years

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Together Scotland - SUII event - 1 June - briefing

[REDACTED]

Please find the briefing pack for the Minister's attendance at Together Scotland's SUII event, which is due to take place on 1 June. The speech reflects comments made by [REDACTED]. I note that [REDACTED] forwarded additional papers to you yesterday, including the delegate list and additional briefing about the seminars from Together.

[Word attachment]

The Minister may be asked to contribute to a video of the event, which is being developed by Young Scot. I have attached a few Lines to Take for this, should he wish to use these.



TOGETHER  
SCOTLAND - SUI...

As discussed in my previous email, the diary request for this event notes that the Minister will attend between 2:30 and 4pm. However, [REDACTED] are of the view that the Minister will attend from 1.15pm. I would be grateful if you could check this for me. However, as you'll note from the programme for the event, the Minister is not due to speak until 3pm.

Many thanks

Agnes

[REDACTED]  
Children's Rights and Wellbeing  
Scottish Government  
[REDACTED]



## TOGETHER SCOTLAND – SUII EVENT – 1 JUNE 2017

### VIDEO SESSION - POSSIBLE LINES TO TAKE

- The Scottish Ministers take the rights of children, as set out in the UNCRC, very seriously indeed.
- **The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 provides a clear framework for taking forward children’s rights in Scotland.**
- The Act places specific duties on all Ministers to consider steps which can give better effect to the UNCRC and to promote public awareness and understanding of children’s rights. These provisions take us further than any previous Scottish Government.
- Part 1 of the Act also requires Ministers to report to Parliament every 3 years on progress in relation to children’s rights and our plans for the next 3 year period. The first report is due in 2018.
- **In addition to the close scrutiny that our record on children’s rights currently receives from the Children’s Commissioner, civil society and the UN Committee itself - this duty will ensure that our performance is held to account at the highest level in Scotland – by our own Parliament.**
- These reporting arrangements also ensure that a strategic action plan for taking forward children’s rights in Scotland **is in place for the next 3 years - and every 3 year period thereafter.**

- To achieve a Scotland where everyone knows about, understands and embraces children's rights will require us to work in partnership with the Children's Commissioner, civil society and the wider public, including children and young people.
- Through these arrangements, our aim is to improve the life chances of every single child living here in Scotland, but especially those who are vulnerable.



	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<b>Media Handling</b>	There will be live tweeting from attendees on the day.
<b>Official Support</b>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<b>Dress code</b>	Business
<b>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival</b>	Sarah Stewart will meet with the Minister in the reception area.
<b>Specific entrance for Ministerial car/parking arrangements</b>	There is an NCP Car Park located on Montrose Street, beside the University (Post Code: G1 1RS)

<b>Annex A</b>	<i>Event programme</i>
<b>Annex B</b>	<i>Speaking Note</i>
<b>Annex C</b>	<i>Briefing on Key Children's Rights Issues</i> <i>C1 – UNCRC reporting</i> <i>C2 – Incorporation of UNCRC / Human Rights</i> <i>C3 – Participation</i> <i>C4 – Brexit – participation</i> <i>C5 – Physical punishment of children</i> <i>C6 – Mosquitos</i> <i>C7 – Poverty / Social Security</i> <i>C8 – Mental Health</i> <i>C9 – Restraint</i> <i>C10 – Armed Forces</i> <i>C11 – Religious Observance</i>
<b>Annex D</b>	<i>Lines to Take for general issues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>GIRFEC – information sharing</i></li> <li>• <i>Attainment Challenge</i></li> <li>• <i>Early Learning &amp; Childcare</i></li> <li>• <i>Child Protection / Internet Safety</i></li> <li>• <i>Age of Criminal Responsibility</i></li> <li>• <i>Disability Framework</i></li> <li>• <i>Refugees / Trafficked Children</i></li> <li>• <i>Care Review</i></li> <li>• <i>Local Government Finance</i></li> </ul>
<b>Annex E</b>	<i>SUII Seminar Series background and biographies</i>

## SPEECH

### Background:

The SUII seminar series has considered the following

Seminar 1 – incorporation of UNCRC into domestic law.

Seminar 2 – participation of children and young people.

Seminar 3 – Child Impact Assessment (and the General Measures within the Convention more generally).

Seminar 4 – the UNCRC going forwards. (due to take place on 1 June)

**The attached speech seeks to** Reaffirm the Scottish Ministers' absolute commitment to the promotion of human rights, particularly the rights of the child. It also discusses:

- duties on Ministers under Part 1 of the 2014 Act and the Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)
- our approach to participation
- our response to the UN Committee's Concluding Observations.

[REDACTED]

Commented [u2]: Redacted s30(b)(i) Free and Frank provision of advice

**What is the make-up of the audience?** Around 80 delegates from public sector organisations, civil society, the office of the Children's Commissioner, the Scottish Youth Parliament and Glasgow Youth Council.

### Is there any media interest in what we are saying?

The event will generate activity on social media amongst the rights community

### Have you consulted special advisers and communications colleagues?

Kate Higgins is content with the speech. We will make Comms aware.

## **ANNEX A**

### **Programme: Seminar Four - The UNCRC Going Forwards , Thursday 1 June**

9.30–10.00am Registration with teas and coffees

10.00–10.20am Welcome and context

#### ***Professor Kay Tisdall, Dr Andressa Gadda - SUll project team***

*Morning session Chaired by Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner*

10.20–10.35am Introduction and the Commissioner's role in Scotland

***Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland***

10.35–11.05am An international perspective on the UNCRC going forwards in Scotland - ***Dr Tara Collins, Ryerson University Canada***

11.05–11.20am Teas and coffees

11.20–11.50am Measuring the progress of children's rights in Scotland

***Dr Morag Treanor, University of Edinburgh***

11.50–12.00pm Questions for the morning speaker panel

12.00–12.30pm Table Discussion: accountability and indicators

12.30–1.15pm Lunch

*Afternoon session Chaired by the Glasgow Youth Council – Joel Meekison, Suki Wan and Thomas McEachan*

1.15–1.45pm Next steps for UNCRC implementation in Scotland

***Professor Elaine Sutherland, University of Stirling***

1.45–1.50pm Looking ahead to lessons on strategic participation in Aberdeen

***Joel Meekison, Suki Wan and Thomas McEachan***

1.50–2.45pm Table Discussion: Action points (I will, you will...)

2.45–3.00pm Coffee break

3.00–3.15pm Presentation by the Minister

***Mark McDonald, Minister for Childcare and Early Years***

3.15–3.45pm Panel discussion

***Mark McDonald, Bruce Adamson and Juliet Harris***

3.45–4.00pm Closing remarks

***Juliet Harris, Director of Together , Joel Meekison, Suki Wan and Thomas McEachan***



## **ANNEX B**

### **SPEAKING NOTE**

- I am delighted to be here in Glasgow today to attend the final event in what I understand has been a very successful series exploring children's rights in Scotland.
- I'd like to thank Together and the Scottish Universities Insight Institute for inviting me today.
- I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the wider context which underpins our approach to the UNCRC in Scotland - and also the importance of leadership and accountability in translating the principles of the Convention into practical action.

### **Human Rights in Scotland**

- Scotland has a long tradition of promoting human rights and social justice.
- Since devolution, the Scottish Parliament has played a central role in promoting and realising individual rights. On key issues relevant to human rights - including child poverty and welfare reform - our Parliament has asserted its views, separate and distinct from those of the UK Parliament.
- No one would deny that we are currently facing a time of significant uncertainty - across the UK, Europe and globally. The Scottish

Government believes that during times of uncertainty, protecting and promoting human rights is all the more important, particularly for the most vulnerable.

### **Political Leadership**

- Given the current context, the timing of this SUII seminar series is helpful and relevant. The seminars have discussed the mechanisms and structures needed to ensure that the rights of the child can be embedded across law, practice and policy. I acknowledge that fundamental to that process is the need for clear political leadership.
- There should be no doubt that our commitment to human rights and the UNCRC is at the heart of this Government's overarching ambition for every child and young person in Scotland to have the best possible start to life, regardless of their circumstances.
- That agenda was affirmed in the very first speech that the returning First Minister gave to Parliament following the Scottish elections last year and was reinforced in our Programme for Government.
- As Minister for Childcare and Early Years, I am proud to lead within the Scottish Government on promoting awareness and understanding of children's rights. However, I am clear that leadership on children's rights must extend across Government and beyond if we are to ensure that the rights of the child are respected, protected and fulfilled.

## Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 – duties on Ministers

- This commitment is underpinned by the duties on all Ministers under Part 1 of the Child and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- As you know, these provisions place a duty on me and my ministerial colleagues to consider how the UNCRC might be better taken forward in Scotland. Our Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment – the CRWIA – has a key role in the implementation of these duties.
- I know that the CRWIA was discussed in detail at your most recent seminar. Within Government, there is a **clear Ministerial expectation** that the CRWIA will be undertaken for all new policies and legislation.
- We encourage this tool to be used early in the policy development process, to consider **systematically** how policies will impact on the rights and wellbeing of children and young people. We have made training and guidance materials available to assist Scottish Government officials and external partners in using the CRWIA.
- Crucially, the CRWIA also requires that policy makers must take account of the views and interests of children and young people themselves.

## **Participation**

- The Scottish Government is committed to meaningful engagement with children and young people, ensuring that they are at the heart of decisions which affect them.
- We are working currently with our key stakeholders to develop a more coordinated and sustainable approach to engagement, with the aim of improving policy development and implementation.
- There have been initial discussions about a participation framework, which is being developed in the context of the Participation Commitment in the **Scottish Open Government Partnership Action Plan**. A key element in developing the framework will be to ensure that it reflects the needs of children and young people themselves.

## **Cabinet event**

- This approach is being adopted at the highest level in Government. In February, I was pleased to take part in a meeting between the Scottish Cabinet and children and young people, at Bute House, the First Minister's official residence.
- The event involved Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and the Children's Parliament who spoke eloquently and passionately to Cabinet Ministers about issues that are important to children and young people.

- We then agreed together a series of actions to be taken forward over the coming year, and that this event will take place annually.

### **Year of Young People 2018**

- Fittingly, the next Cabinet meeting with children and young people takes place during 2018, our Year of Young People.
- Key stakeholders who work with children and young people are currently planning events and activities to celebrate the achievements of Scotland's youth as part of this special Year. Alongside this planning, I have made a commitment to personally engage with children and young people at events during the year.

### **Local level**

- As well as our national activities, we also support the development of local approaches to engagement.
- We are currently funding a pilot, with the Edinburgh Children's Partnership, to explore children and young people's participation in the children's services planning process.
- This pilot is using the same approach as Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights and provides participants - children, young people and planners - with the opportunity to share their views on how children and young people should be involved in the local planning process.

- We hope that this will inform how we can successfully and sustainably involve and engage children and young people in the development of children's services plans.

### **Raising Awareness**

- Alongside participation, I am aware that if we are going to make rights real for our children and young people, more needs to be done to raise awareness of children's rights amongst all duty bearers, including service providers and parents and carers.
- We will continue to work with the Children's Commissioner and other partners to strengthen this wider awareness.
- An explicit objective to raise awareness of children's rights is included in the terms of the funding for the Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund. We are encouraging Scottish Government officials to include a similar objective within general grant conditions for relevant organisations in the current financial year.
- Working with partners in this way, we will raise awareness of children's rights across the length and breadth of Scotland.

### **Duty to Report to Parliament**

- As well as a duty to raise awareness, Part 1 of the 2014 Act requires Ministers to report to Parliament every 3 years on progress in relation to children's rights and our plans for the next 3 year period.

- In addition to the close scrutiny that our record on children's rights currently receives from the Children's Commissioner, civil society and the UN Committee itself - this duty will ensure that our performance is held to account at the highest level in Scotland – by our own Parliament.
- My officials are taking forward the 2018 Report right now. We have convened a **Community of Interest** – a group of officials who are committed to the development of better, more joined-up policy for the benefit of children and young people across Scotland. This Community will have a key role in overseeing the preparation of the 2018 report.

### **Children's Rights Action Plan**

- I know that there has been concern and challenge from some stakeholders that we have not committed formally to preparing a Scottish Action Plan following the publication last year of the UN Committee's Concluding Observations.
- I want to reassure everyone here today that the preparation of the 2018 report to Parliament will include specific actions in response to the UN Committee's Observations, where we consider these to be appropriate, and further planned activity for the remainder of this parliament.

- The 2018 Report will build on the extensive draft policy position that we shared with stakeholders in December and discussed at the children's rights event in January this year.
- It is important to acknowledge that the reporting arrangements under the 2014 Act will ensure that a strategic action plan for taking forward children's rights in Scotland **is in place for the next 3 years - and every 3 year period thereafter.**

#### **Debate about what more could be done**

- Despite the progress that we have made, I recognise that there are issues where views may vary about how best to move forward.

#### **Incorporation**

- For example, there continues to be debate about how best to give effect to the Convention in Scotland – an issue that was discussed in detail at the first of these seminars.
- The Scottish Government is committed to working in partnership with Scottish civil society to explore the benefits of further incorporating internationally-recognised human rights treaties into the law of Scotland.
- With reference to the UNCRC, Part 1 of the 2014 Act take us further than any previous Scottish Government. We remain committed to enhancing children's rights in all aspects of Scottish life. We will continue to look for opportunities to apply the principles of the



Convention on an issue by issue basis, where we consider it right and proper to do so.

### **Physical Punishment of Children**

- I also recognise the debate on physical punishment of children. We have made clear that the Scottish Government does not support physical punishment.
- We have no plans to introduce legislation in this area, but will consider carefully the consultation John Finnie MSP has just issued and Mr Finnie's planned Member's bill. We will also continue to support positive parenting.

### **Specific Policy Actions**

- This seminar series has been helpful in exploring the context and understanding of the UNCRRC.
- I acknowledge fully the need to consider the structures and mechanisms for taking forward the Convention. However, it is also important that we do not lose sight of the positive progress that is being made to improve the lived experiences of our children and young people right now - and the potential for further progress. For example:
- We are already implementing radical reforms to strengthen our education system and **raise attainment for all**. We are challenging everyone involved in Scottish education to focus their efforts on reducing the impacts of deprivation on educational outcomes.

Through the Scottish Attainment Challenge, we will allocate £750m during the course of this Parliament to tackle the poverty related attainment gap, targeting resources at the children, schools and communities most in need.

- Our Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill, currently before Parliament, will establish Scotland as the only part of the UK with ambitious statutory income targets on child poverty. It will set out a robust framework for measuring, monitoring and reporting on child poverty at a national and local level.
- Our commitment to **early learning and childcare** aims to transform the life chances of children and families – especially those seeking routes out of poverty. We plan to almost double the amount of funded hours to 1140 hours per year by the end of the Parliament.
- We are also on track to ensure that, from this Summer, every newborn in Scotland will receive a **baby box** of essential items,
- In December, I announced our intention to bring forward legislation this term to **raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility** in Scotland to 12 years of age, with appropriate safeguards - and to deliver the reforms in time for our year of young people in 2018.
- We are also developing a **Framework to Support Disabled Children, Young People and their Families** to get the right support from birth to adulthood. A draft Framework will be published in late

autumn, and a consultation will take place early in the Year of the Young People. The final Framework will be published next summer.

- All of these policies are underpinned by our **Getting it Right for Every Child** approach to improving outcomes and supporting the wellbeing of all children and young people.

### **Conclusion**

- I am grateful to all those who have organised and participated in these SU11 events.
- I am proud of our record together in promoting the rights of the child and in ensuring that their voices are heard.
- As an example of how far we have come, last month 16 and 17 year olds could express their opinion in the Scottish council elections. This contrasts starkly with next week's UK general election, when the same young people will not have that opportunity.
- As the First Minister has said, our children and young people are Scotland's future. I am sure that everyone who has attended the SU11 seminars will agree that we make better, more sustainable policy and delivery choices for that future when we work collaboratively and, most importantly, when we listen to the views and needs of our children and young people.

Word count: 2100

## ANNEX C1

### UNCRC Reporting

#### Lines to Take

- Our **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act** provides explicitly for Ministers' ongoing consideration, and reporting, of ways in which the UNCRC can be further taken forward in Scotland. The views of children and young people are integral to the successful implementation of these new duties.
- The 2014 Act also requires Ministers to report to Parliament every 3 years on relevant progress. **This duty will ensure that our performance in relation to children's rights is held to account at the highest level in Scotland - the Scottish Parliament.**
- The first report, due in 2018, will include specific actions in response to the UN Committee's **Concluding Observations**, where we consider these to be appropriate, and further planned activity for the remainder of this parliament.
- We have also developed a model for child rights and wellbeing impact assessments (**CRWIA**). This ensures that all government portfolios must consider the possible impact of proposed new policies and legislation on the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland.
- The Act also requires specified public authorities to report every three years on the steps they have taken to further the UNCRC requirements. These duties commenced in April 2017.
- We will consider relevant recommendations from the recent **Universal Periodic Review** and the UN Concluding Observations within our Report to Parliament in 2018, in line with our duties under the 2014 Act.

**Q&A**

**Q Will you develop an Action Plan to take forward the UN's Concluding Observations?**

A. Initial responses to each of the specific recommendations in the **Concluding Observations** are reflected in the draft policy position paper which was shared with stakeholders in December and discussed at the children's rights event in January.

The 2018 report to the Parliament under Part 1 of the 2014 Act will include specific actions in response to the UN Committee's **Concluding Observations**, where we consider these to be appropriate, and further planned activity for the remainder of this parliament.

The reporting arrangements under the 2014 Act will ensure that a strategic action plan for taking forward children's rights in Scotland **is in place for the next 3 years - and every 3 year period thereafter.**

**Q. How will you mark the first anniversary of the UN Concluding Observations?**

A. The first anniversary of the Concluding Observations will coincide with the final weeks of the current parliamentary year. Following publication of our Programme for Government last September, I am immensely proud of the positive progress that we have made across a wide range of areas, many of which respond to the specific issues raised within the Concluding Observations. Rather than focus on a particular anniversary, I am very keen that we view this as a continuing, sustainable process of improvement in how we make rights real.

**Q. How will stakeholders, including children and young people, be involved in the development of the 2018 Action Plan?**

A. I am committed to ensuring that we engage widely in preparing the 2018 report and forward plan. Initial engagement will take place through the Community of Interest in the first instance with decisions about wider consultation and engagement being taken thereafter. We plan to hold a number of engagement events for key stakeholders, including children and young people, next year.

**Q. What more do you think might be done to improve the monitoring of the SG's progress in taking forward the UNCRC?**

A. Officials are currently establishing a cross-portfolio Community of Interest to help support the mainstreaming of children's rights across the Scottish Government. I am keen to ensure that relevant partners, including Together Scotland, the Children's Commissioner and children and young people, have an opportunity to engage with the new Community as required.

**Q. Do you intend to make the Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) a statutory requirement?**

A. There are no plans to make the CRWIA a statutory requirement. However, there is a clear Ministerial expectation that CRWIAs will be undertaken for all new policies and legislation. Completed CRWIAs are published on our website.

**Q. How are budget decisions influenced by children's rights?**

A. The Budget Equality Statement published alongside the draft Budget includes an expanded section on the possible impact of budget decisions for children and young people and their rights and wellbeing. Individual CRWIAs will also inform legislative and significant investment decisions relevant to children and young people.

**Q. Will the Scottish Government look to urge the UK Government to sign up to the third optional protocol on a Communications Procedure?**

A. We have welcomed the **Third Optional Protocol** in principle and would be minded to offer measured support for its signature and ratification in the future. Before doing so it is important to better understand how the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child intends to apply the Protocol. We are committed to ongoing discussions with each of the UK Administrations to better understand the impact that Optional Protocol is likely to have.

We are also interested to observe how the new powers of the Commissioner, under Part 2 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, to conduct investigations in respect of how service providers have regard to the interests, rights and views of children and young people, are applied in practice. These powers are due to be commenced in August 2017.

## Background

1. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child published its Concluding Observations for the UK State Party on 9 June 2016. **Stakeholders at the SUII may point out that it has now been a year since the UN Committee published its Concluding Observations and will ask what the SG has done to take these forward.**
2. An engagement event, which took place on 17 January, provided an opportunity for the Minister and officials to listen to stakeholders' views in relation to how actions following from the Concluding Observations might be taken forward and monitored.
3. Discussions at the event were informed by the Scottish Government's **draft policy position** in relation to the UN's Concluding Observations, which was forwarded to attendees ahead of the event. Where appropriate, this document sets out our current and planned activity in promoting children's rights.

## Child Rights Action Plan

[REDACTED]

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5. The 2018 report to the Scottish Parliament under Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 will report on progress achieved in relation to rights since 2015 and plans for the subsequent 3 year period (up to 2021). In view of this, the Minister has agreed that we should not prepare a specific Action Plan on the Concluding Observations, separate from the Part 1 report and forward plan.
6. We have communicated to stakeholders that the 2018 Report will include specific actions in response to the UN Committee's Concluding Observations, where we consider these to be appropriate, and further planned activity for the remainder of this parliament.
7. Officials are currently taking forward the 2018 Report. As a first step, we have convened a **Community of Interest** – a group of officials who are committed to the development of better, more joined-up policy for the benefit of children and young people across Scotland. The Community, which will meet for the first time on 7 June, will have a key role in overseeing our preparations of the 2018 report.

## **Part 1: duties on Ministers**

8. From 15 June 2015, provisions under Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (2014 Act), place new duties on Scottish Ministers to consider how they might better take forward the UNCRC in Scotland. In doing so, Ministers must listen to the views of children and young people, promote and raise awareness of their rights and report to the Scottish Parliament every 3 years on relevant progress and plans for the subsequent 3 year period. The first report to the Scottish Parliament is due in 2018.

9. The Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (**CRWIA**), ensures that all parts of Government must consider how proposed policies and legislation will impact on the rights and wellbeing of children and young people. Although not currently a statutory duty, there is a **clear Ministerial expectation** for policy officials to undertake CRWIAs when developing new legislation and policies.

### **Third Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure**

10. The Third Optional Protocol to the UNCRC provides for a Communications Procedure to allow children, groups of children or their representatives, who claim that their rights have been violated by their State, to bring a communication, or complaint, before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child directly. The Optional Protocol (OP3) has not, to date, been signed and ratified by the UK Government, although the UK has stated that it is keeping the OP3 under review in light of emerging information about how the Optional Protocol is being used in other countries.

### **Universal Periodic Review**

11. The UPR is a review of the human rights records of all UN member states, carried out by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). The third review of the UK's overall human rights record took place in Geneva on 4 May 2017.

12. Prominent themes, which were commented on by multiple contributing member states, included children's rights and issues affecting children as follows:

- violence against women and girls
- human trafficking and modern slavery
- children's rights, and child exploitation and abuse
- immigration and asylum policies
- ratify the Third Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure
- raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility
- take measure to deal with child poverty

13. The UK Government will publish a formal written response to the recommendations in August or September this year, and it is proposed that the SG publish its own response at the same time.



## ANNEX C2

### INCORPORATION - UNCRC & HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

#### Lines to Take

- Scottish Ministers have an established record in promoting and safeguarding children's rights. Our Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places specific duties on all Ministers to consider steps which can give better effect to the UNCRC.
- We remain committed to enhancing children's rights in all aspects of Scottish life and look for opportunities to apply the principles of the Convention on an issue by issue basis, where we consider it right and proper to do so.
- The Scottish Government is committed to working in partnership with Scottish civil society to explore the benefits of further incorporating internationally-recognised human rights into the law of Scotland. **Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP)** contains a commitment to explore the potential benefits of further incorporation of human rights treaties into the law of Scotland.
- The **PfG** contains commitments to deliver fair work, tackle inequality and empower communities, giving better effect to those rights.
- The PfG contains a specific commitment to engage directly with people and communities across the whole of Scotland to set in motion a process through which to "explore how to give further and better effect to the economic, social and cultural rights set out in United Nations and other international treaties.
- The SG has consistently **opposed proposals to repeal the HRA** throughout the UK, not just in Scotland. The Conservative 2017 manifesto promises not to repeal or replace the HRA whilst the Brexit process is underway, and UK will remain signatory to ECHR "for the duration of the next parliament".

**Q. How does the SG ensure that international human rights treaties are enforced in Scotland?**

- The SG is directly accountable to the Scottish Parliament for the action it takes to give effect to human rights obligations in Scotland.
- Under the Scottish Ministerial Code, all Scottish Ministers have an “overarching duty...to comply with the law, including international law and treaty obligations.”
- It also participates actively in UK reporting on its international human rights treaty obligations, ensuring that Scotland’s distinctive approach is visible in the United Nations and Council of Europe.

**BACKGROUND**

SNAP

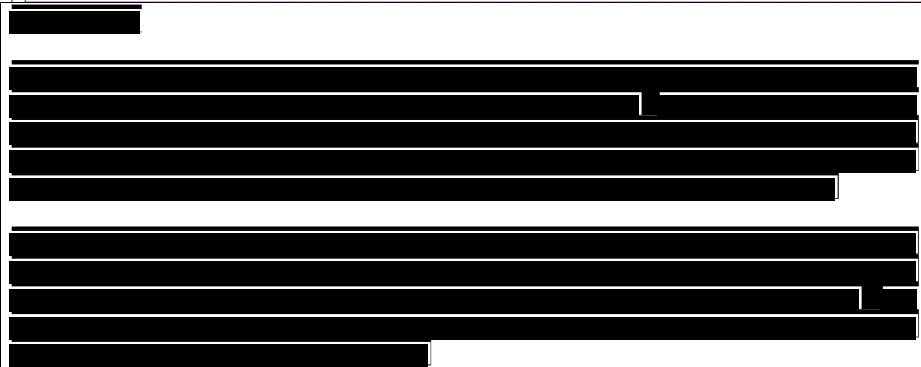
1. In February 2017 the First Minister said: *“[Our] overall approach to government... is guided by our commitment to human rights. That’s why we are determined to put human rights at the heart of our policy-making.”*(SCVO, 11 February 2017)

2. In September 2015 the FM said *“we want to embed human rights – including economic and social rights - in the way we make decisions as a nation; in the way public authorities deliver services, and in the way we can empower individuals and communities”* (Protecting Human Rights, Govan, 23 Sept 2015).

3. At the SNAP Innovation Forum in December 2015 the FM said *“Incorporation is important, but it’s also important to recognise that it isn’t a perfect solution, it won’t automatically mean that policy-making improves and that rights are better represented. But it does have a role to play alongside other substantive steps that we must take. It is an important part of the debate on how we go further in ensuring that people’s rights are at the heart of everything we do.”*

## ANNEX C3

### PARTICIPATION



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#### Lines to take:

- The Scottish Government is committed to meaningfully and credibly engage with children and young people at a national level, ensuring that they are at the heart of decisions which affect them.
- We are developing a more coordinated, systematic and sustainable approach to engaging with children and young people at national and local levels.
- We work with national youth information and citizenship organisations, like Young Scot, Scottish Youth Parliament and the Children's Parliament, to help children and young people to become successful and confident and offer the opportunity to participate in and influence local and national activities and decisions.

#### **The first annual meeting of Cabinet members with children and young people, from the Children's Parliament and Scottish Youth Parliament, took place on 28 February 2017 at Bute House.**

- Cabinet members and children and young people then collectively agreed to actions for the year ahead, in relation to children and young people. We are working closely with key SG policy leads in taking these actions forward and intend to report on progress on these actions at next year's Cabinet event.
- We have introduced a Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment to ensure children's rights are considered in the development of new policies and legislation.

**The Scottish Government also supports developing local approaches to engagement.**

- A pilot exploring children and young people's participation in the planning process, at a local level, is currently being undertaken by Edinburgh Children's Partnership in the Spring 2017, with support from the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland and the Scottish Human Rights Commission.
- Following the same approach as Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP), we will provide participants (children, young people and planners) with the opportunity to share their views on how children and young people should be involved in the planning process at local level.
- The aim is to develop an agreed methodology for engagement, jointly owned by children, young people and planners, to supplement the Part 3 guidance on children's services planning, published in December 2016.

**We are carrying out research on the impact of children and young people's participation on policy making.**

- Research on "The Impact of children and young people's participation on policy making" is currently being carried out by Children in Scotland, on our behalf, to help inform our policy making.
- The key aim of this qualitative study is to explore and evidence the nature and type of impact of children and young people's participation on policy making in Scotland, including at a national and local level.

**The participation theme of the Year of Young People (YOYP) 2018 has the aim that young people should significantly influence public services and decisions which affect their lives.**

- The Minister for Childcare and Early Years has already made a commitment to personally engage with children and young people during YOYP 2018 – to ensure that their voices are heard on issues that are important to them.
- We are working with key stakeholders in the planning, implementation and legacy of the participation theme of this themed year. We have set up a participation theme working group, with representatives from a wide range of organisations working with children and young people (e.g. Young Scot, SYP, CP, Children in Scotland, LGBT Youth Scotland, Youth Scotland, Together, BEMIS). This group will meet four times during 2017 to assist with the planning of the participation theme.

## **Q & A**

### **Q: How are you developing a more systematic and sustainable approach to engaging with children and young people at national and local level?**

**A:** We are currently working with our key stakeholders, including the Scottish Youth Parliament, Children's Parliament and the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland, to develop a more systematic and sustainable approach to engaging with children and young people at national and local level.

We held our first annual meeting of Cabinet Ministers with children and young people in February 2017. This event gave children and young people the opportunity to discuss issues that were currently important to them and helped to inform the government's agenda over the coming year.

We are also running a pilot with Edinburgh Children's Partnership to develop a model of engagement jointly owned by children, young people and planners on how children and young people should be involved in the planning process at local level. We hope to share this as a model of good practice with other key stakeholders, including local authorities, health boards and community planning partnership areas.

### **Q: Are you planning on developing a national participation strategy for children and young people?**

**A:** No, we are not planning on developing a national participation strategy at the moment. Although we currently do not have a formal participation strategy, our participation work is around developing a more coordinated, systematic and sustainable approach to engaging with children and young people at national and local levels. A good example of this is our meeting of Cabinet Ministers with children and young people, which has been agreed to be carried out on an annual basis.

In addition, we have held initial discussions with SG officials around a participation framework, which is being developed in the context of the Participation Commitment in the Scottish Open Government Partnership Action Plan. We will collaborate together during its development and ensure that it reflects the needs of children and young people.

## ANNEX C4

### BREXIT

#### Lines to take:

- The Scottish people did not vote for Brexit, and a “hard Brexit” would severely damage Scotland’s economic, social and cultural interests.
- The European Single Market is much more than simply an economic arrangement, important is this is. As well as the considerable economic benefits we derive from membership, the European Single Market provides a framework for safeguarding and advancing social rights and protections.
- The First Minister has identified the maintenance of social protections (including human rights) as one of Scotland’s five key interests in its future relationship with Europe. Our priority is to protect Scotland’s interests, and we are determined that Scotland’s voice is heard, and acted upon.

#### **Brexit - Engagement with Young People**

- As part of a wider strategy of stakeholder engagement following the EU Referendum, the Scottish Government is keen to hear the voices and views of young people.
- Mr Russell, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland’s Place in Europe, met with the Scottish Youth Parliament at the end of November 2016 and listened to feedback from MSYPs on young people’s views on the EU Referendum and Brexit, as discussed at their recent Sitting in October. Mr Russell also met with Young Scot to discuss ways that young people’s voices are heard during the negotiation process.
- At the Cabinet event in February 2017, MSYPs (representing young people in Scotland) discussed “The future of Scotland’s relationship with Europe” as one of the four issues that were important for young people in Scotland today.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 the Scottish Government and Young Scot (Scotland’s national youth information and citizenship charity) jointly hosted an event at Scotland House in Brussels; providing young people with a platform to engage in discussions about the future of Europe.
- **The Scottish Government will continue to explore opportunities to ensure that the voices of young people are heard, in the on-going discussions around the future of Scotland’s place in Europe.**

**Q. How will Brexit affect rights protections in Scotland?**

**A.** Much depends on the UK's future relationship with the EU. The SG approach is focused firmly on securing our future relationship with the EU and protecting Scotland's interests. Those include the positive social and economic benefits of EU membership – not least in relation to equality, rights and social protections. The proposals set out in *Scotland's Place in Europe* fall short of what the Scottish Government considers the best status for Scotland and the UK – full membership of the EU. But continued membership of the European Single Market would mitigate, as far as possible, the impact of leaving the EU, as it would ensure a continued framework for protecting and promoting rights and social protections.

Leaving the EU will require a fundamental reappraisal of the UK's current constitutional arrangements. *Scotland's Place in Europe* proposes significant further devolution, in a range of areas, including the powers necessary to safeguard and advance social protections in currently reserved areas such as employment and trade union law, equalities, health and safety and consumer protection. The SG's position is that Scotland must continue to keep pace with EU level standards. Additional powers should be devolved to Scotland to enable future legislation and services in Scotland to continue to meet EU requirements in full.

Significant work is still required to quantify the full extent of what Brexit might mean for human rights and equality in Scotland. An assessment of the human rights/equality implications is being taken forward by a working group chaired by Alan Miller and Grahame Smith as part of the activity being pursued by the FM's Standing Council on Europe. The SG is actively supporting that work.

## **ANNEX C5**

### **PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN**

#### **Lines to take**

- The Scottish Government does not support the physical punishment of children and does not consider it effective.
- The Scottish Government has no intention of bringing forward legislation to ban the physical punishment of children. The existing legislation already makes it illegal to punish children by shaking; hitting them on the head or using an implement. It also contains a range of factors, taking from European Court of Human Rights judgements, for a court to consider if a court is looking into the physical punishment which a child had received.
- We will consider very carefully Mr Finnie's current consultation and his planned Bill.

#### **Q&A**

##### **Q. Why not just ban physical punishment?**

A. The current legislation protects children and avoids the criminalisation of parents for light smacking.

##### **Q. The research evidence is strongly against physical punishment?**

A. And the SG is against physical punishment too. Our concern is about the potential legislation in this area.

##### **Q. Wales are planning to legislate – why not Scotland?**

A. We will, of course, keep in close touch with what Wales are doing. However, the Scottish Government has concerns about legislating. We don't want to criminalise parents for light smacking. We do not support physical punishment and believe the way forward is to encourage positive parenting through, for example, providing funding to family support services.



**Q. How does the SG support positive parenting?**

A. The Scottish Government's aspiration is for Scotland to be the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up.

The National Parenting Strategy seeks to turn this aspiration into practical action - by championing the importance of parenting, by strengthening the support on offer to parents and by making it easier for them to access this support.

Through the Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund and Adult Learning and Empowering Communities Fund, the Scottish Government has awarded £14 million in 2016-17 to 116 organisations that aim to support children, families and communities across Scotland.

Of these, 21 are for organisations in the area of parenting and family support totalling funding of £4.282m.

Organisations such as Mellow Parenting and Peeples are funded to deliver programmes designed to support parents to connect with their children and to help them increase their wellbeing, self-esteem and self-confidence.

The National Parenting Strategy recognises that parents need easy access to clear, concise information on everything from pregnancy to the teenage years and beyond.

We are funding organisations such as Parenting Across Scotland to ensure such advice and practical support is available for families across a wide range of areas.

There is always more we can consider doing to support parents – after all, it is widely acknowledged that they do the hardest job. We will continue to look at how we provide support, information and advice to ensure that we are helping parents to give their children the best start in life.

**Background note**

1. John Finnie MSP is consulting on proposals to remove defences in this area and, in effect, ban all physical punishment of children. The consultation closes on Friday 4 August 2017.

2. Policy on smacking across the UK:

- **England:** Ministers in the previous UK Government were planning legislation to ban physical punishment in madrassahs and supplementary schools. They had no plans for more general legislation.
- **Wales:** Ministers are planning to legislate to remove defences for parents and ban physical punishment. There's no timetable yet for that.
- Nothing is planned in **Northern Ireland**.

## ANNEX C6

### MOSQUITOS

#### Line to take

- The SG has never supported the use of the Mosquito device, and considers that the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 currently provides sufficient measures to help police and local authorities deal with antisocial behaviour wherever it arises. There is limited evidence available on the widespread use of the Mosquito devices.
- Further evidence about the extent of use of the device would be necessary if the Government were to satisfy Parliament, or the courts, that legislating against its use could be considered a proportionate or appropriate response. The Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs has commissioned **Young Scot and the Scottish Youth Parliament** to undertake a survey of young people to learn more about their experiences of Mosquito devices.

#### Q&A

##### **Q: What is the Mosquito device?**

**A:** The Mosquito device is commonly described as “an anti-loitering device”. The device emits an unpleasant high pitched sound which is usually only audible to young people under the age of 25. Use of the device is often “justified” by claims that it prevents people from congregating and engaging in antisocial behaviours such as graffiti and vandalism.

##### **Q: If its purpose is to prevent antisocial behaviour, why are people opposed to its use?**

**A:** The noise affects all people under the age of 25, including those who are not behaving antisocially. Examples of people adversely affected include babies or toddlers in prams who are unable to move away and are also not able to tell their accompanying adult about it. There is also a chance that the device may be sited near residential properties they will continuously affect any young people living there.

##### **Q: Are you aware of it being used?**

**A:** We have no evidence as to whether it is being used widely. Where evidence of their use does arise, we will be happy to work with relevant stakeholders to explore further the use of these devices.

##### **Q: What do you intend to do about this issue?**

**A:** We appreciate that opponents of the device would ideally like to see a legislative solution, however we cannot say this is a justifiable or proportionate response. However, in light of the complaints about this issue, the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs has commissioned Young Scot and the Scottish Youth

Parliament to undertake a survey of young people to learn more about their experiences of Mosquito devices.

## **Background**

1. Despite the recent interest in the Mosquito device, there is very little correspondence received about it in Safer Communities Division. The most recent communication we have had on the subject, aside from the recent UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Examination, was four PQs from Alison McInnes MSP back in January 2015. Indeed, despite the sometimes intense levels of correspondence this division receives through the MACCS system about our range of policy subjects, there has been no correspondence at all from the public on this matter.

2. Where public sector bodies choose to deploy the Mosquito device, they must consider the implications set out by Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This states they must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the provisions of the Act. All public authorities covered by the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 would have a duty to assess the equality impact of any decision they may make to use a mosquito device, and act to mitigate any negative impact. However it should be noted the provisions of the Act do not apply to private individuals or organisations.

3. Safer Communities Division official met with the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs on Thursday 12 January to discuss the Mosquito device. The Minister instructed officials to work with Young Scot and the Scottish Youth Parliament to undertake a survey of young people to learn more about if and where young people are encountering these devices and what their views are of them. The survey is currently being developed with input from Justice Analytical Services and will be sent to members of the SYP and Young Scot and will be available on the Young Scot Rewards site for a period of 6 weeks.

## ANNEX C7

### POVERTY

- Around **one in four children live in poverty in Scotland**. This is unacceptable in a modern, thriving country like ours. We need to take urgent action – both to help those children who are living in poverty now, and to prevent future generations of children growing up in poverty.
- **The Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill will set in statute stretching income targets to reduce child poverty by 2030**; place a duty on Scottish Ministers to publish Child Poverty Delivery Plans at regular intervals and to report on progress annually; and place a duty on local authorities and health boards to report annually on what they are doing to contribute to reducing child poverty.
- **The Bill will not include the policies to meet the targets** - those will be for governments to pursue within each parliamentary term according to the actions outlined in the Child Poverty Delivery Plan.
- **Our actions are in stark contrast to the UKG** which has abolished its child poverty unit, is no longer bothering with child poverty targets, and has taken away the child poverty part of its previous child poverty and social mobility Commission.
- Consultation on the Bill received a broad level of support. We will be continuing to refine and develop our approach, in collaboration with our Ministerial Advisory Group on Child Poverty, our Independent Poverty Advisor and others – reflecting the importance we continue to place on this challenge.

### New Social Security Powers

- We will gain powers over **15% (around £2.8 billion) of social security spending** with 85% remaining at Westminster. We will seize the opportunity to transform the support people receive but cannot redress all of the unfairness that exists within the current system.
- The Scottish Government has made clear its ambition to build a fairer social security system founded on the principles of **dignity and respect**.
- Our priority is to ensure **safe and secure transfer** of benefits to those who receive them. To get this right, we need to hear from people who have experience of the benefits systems. Our **consultation**, which ran from 29 July to 28 October, allowed us to do that and we are also setting up 'Social Security Experience Panels' to involve at least 2,000 people who have recent experience of receiving benefits to help to design and test the new system to ensure it works for them.

- **Since 2013/14** we have invested **over £350 million to mitigate UK Government welfare reform** and support low income families, **including fully mitigating the Bedroom Tax** - ensuring more than 70,000 households save around £650 per year on average and are able to stay in their own home - and to help 241,000 individual households - a third of which include children - through the **Scottish Welfare Fund**.

## **Background**

1. Successfully transitioning the new benefit powers (including 11 benefits) and delivering on new manifesto commitments is possibly the **biggest programme of change** which the Scottish Government has undertaken since devolution, and the most complex.
2. Our objective remains to have an operational Scottish Social Security Agency delivering devolved benefits by the **end of this Parliamentary term**.
3. We have announced there will be a **new social security agency** to manage the Scottish benefits. There is some pressure to announce where it will be located, how it will operate and how many staff will be involved. We are undertaking an options appraisal exercise to inform these decisions.

## ANNEX C8

### Mental Health

**Mental Health Strategy** — published 30 March. Our guiding ambition is simple — that we must prevent and treat mental health problems with the same commitment, passion and drive as we do with physical health problems.

**CAMHS Stats-** (for Q4 2016) — 90% target within 18 weeks, published 7 March 2017:

- 82.5% in 18 weeks - a 3.5 percentage point increase from last quarter. *Of 4,222 seen in Q4 2016, that's 3,482 seen within 18 weeks, and 740 waited longer than 18 weeks. Compares with 3,330 seen in Q4 2013, 2,747 within 18 weeks, and 583 waited longer.*

### TOP LINES

- In March, the Minister for Mental Health, Maureen Watt set out our 10 year Mental Health Strategy, and made clear that it was a platform to build on.
- Over the 10 years of the Strategy, we will work **on achieving parity between mental and physical health**. That means improving:
  - **Prevention and early intervention** and physical wellbeing.
  - **Access to treatment**, and joined up accessible services '**ask once, get help fast**'.
  - Rights, information use and **planning**.

**Schools** are key to ensuring that the children of Scotland have the care and support they need.

- That's why we're commissioning a **review of the role of pastoral guidance and counselling services**, to ensure every child has appropriate access to the right support in school.
- **We will also soon be commissioning a review** into rejected child and adolescent mental health service referrals, as a foundation for making further improvements.

**Increasing workforce** — Over the next 5 years we'll increase the mental health workforce by 800 in key settings like GP surgeries, A&E, prisons, and police custody suites, with funding increasing to £35 million to support this training and recruitment.

**Working with stakeholders** will be key to building on the actions of the strategy over the next decade, and that's why there will be a **bi-annual forum and a full review** at 5 years.

- The first forum, chaired by the Minister for Mental Health, will take place this summer.

### **WORKFORCE — UP SUBSTANTIALLY UNDER THE SNP**

- We've invested almost £20 million over the last seven years to increase the number of psychologists working in specialist CAMHS.
- The number of professionals working in child and adolescent mental health has increased by more than 50% in the last decade.

### **REJECTED CAMHS REFERRALS**

- There's a number of reasons why a referral may be rejected. **Ultimately, it's a clinical decision.**
- **As part of our Mental Health Strategy we will be beginning a review of CAMHS services, including a review of rejected referrals.**

### **WAITING TIMES FOR CAMHS (for Q4 2016)**

- CAMHS Waiting Times performance has improved on the last quarter (3.5 percentage points), and by 6.3 percentage points on the same quarter last year.
- Compared to last quarter the numbers waiting over 18 weeks to be seen fell by 16%.

### **FUNDING**

- Spending on mental health has increased under SNP, from £651.4 million in 2006/07 to £928.9 million in 2015/16 – 42.6% increase [**NOTE:** real terms its £172.4 million; 22.4%].
- In 2017/18, **spending will increase to at least £1 billion for the first time**
- Mental health spending represents **around 8.6% of total NHS net expenditure** [**NOTE:** 8.8% in 2006/07, 8.6% in 2015/16 from ISD NHS Costbook]
- Our new commitment on funding to increase the mental health workforce will rise to £35 million by the end of 5 years to support employment of 800 additional mental health workers. [**NOTE:** This is further funding above the £150 million already planned over 5 years.]

## **ANNEX C9**

### **USE OF RESTRAINT**

#### **Q – What is the Scottish Government’s position on the use of restraint and isolation rooms in schools?**

**A -** The Scottish Government is clear that the use of physical intervention and physical restraint should be seen within the context of early intervention, positive relationships and behaviour and used only as a last resort to ensure the safety of a child or young person or others, in line with the UNCRC’s recommendations. Any incident where a decision is made to physically restrain a child or young person must be recorded and monitored. Details on how this should be undertaken should be included in a local authority’s policy on de-escalation, physical intervention and restraint. The recording and monitoring of such incidents will help local authorities to monitor the effectiveness of their policy and practice and enable them to review and improve, where appropriate, their policy and also help identify professional learning needs.

The Scottish Government is also clear that ‘isolation rooms’ should not be used for disciplining children and young people. Separation that is supported within a separate room or safe space should be included in an agreed plan and be used as a last resort. Where separation that is supported is used, it should be under supervision, time limited and take into account the additional support needs of the child or young person. Local authorities should ensure that appropriate support and training is provided where necessary and should include guidance on support following an incident for all those involved.

#### **Background**

1 The previous Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning made a commitment to the petitions committee (in relation to a petition calling on guidance on the use of restraint and seclusion in schools) that guidance would be incorporated into the revised ‘Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2: A Positive Approach to Preventing and Managing School Exclusions’.

2. In October 2016, the Deputy First Minister met with the petitioner; and later that month chaired the Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools (SAGRABIS), where the issue of restraint was discussed. Despite concerns raised by SAGRABIS members about the Scottish Government issuing guidance on restraint for schools; it has since been confirmed that the updated guidance ‘Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2: A Positive Approach to Preventing and Managing School Exclusions’ will include a section on restraint and separation that is supported. We anticipate this guidance will be issued in 2017.



## ANNEX C10

### RECRUITMENT OF UNDER 18s TO THE ARMED FORCES

#### Lines to Take:

- Defence policy including recruitment to the Armed Forces is reserved to the UK Government.
- Across all parts of the UK a young person can join the Armed Forces from the age of 16. In Scotland, as in the rest of the UK, parental consent is required before they can do so.
- The Ministry of Defence has strict policies that prevent the involvement in hostilities of UK service personnel under the age of 18. The Scottish Government expects the Ministry of Defence to uphold these policies in full and, in response to queries from the Scottish Government, The MOD confirmed in November 2016 that there was no intention to change this policy and offered assurances that the UK Government takes the duty of care towards all recruits seriously, in particular for those under 18.
- All recruits aged under 18 receive key skills education in literacy and numeracy, should they need it, and are enrolled onto apprenticeships. MOD states that effective and independently verified safeguards are in place. The Scottish Government notes recent concern expressed on this issue and will retain close dialogue with the Ministry of Defence to examine policies on the matter carefully.

#### Background

##### Public Petition PE1603<sup>1</sup>

1. On 20 March 2016, a petition was lodged by Mairi Campbell-Jack and Douglas Beattie on behalf of Quaker in Scotland and Forces Watch about Military visits to schools. Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that:

1. *Guidance is provided on how visits to schools by the armed forces should be conducted so that information presented to children takes account of the unique nature of armed forces careers, ensures political balance, and offers a realistic representation of the role of the armed forces and what a career in the armed forces involves.*
2. *Information is collected to enable public monitoring of the number and location of visits, the purpose and content of visits, and comparison with the number of visits by other employers.*
3. *Parents/guardians are consulted as to whether they are happy for their child to take part in armed forces activities at school.*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.parliament.scot/help/searchresults.aspx?terms=PE01603>

2. Despite positive responses from local authorities and the Ministry of Defence about Military visits to schools, the petitioners are pushing for further regulation of and information regarding these visits. The petition is still live, and was discussed at the Petitions Committee on 24 November 2016, 2 March 2017 and 20 April 2017. The Committee is likely to discuss this petition again at a later date (date tbc).

#### **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

3. The UN Committee's Concluding Observations and Together Scotland's State of Children's Rights Report both call for an end to recruiting those under 18, despite the robust safeguards in place.

4. The previous Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland, Tam Baillie, according to recent press reports, also called for an outright ban on the recruitment of those under 18. He too, sent a submission to the Petition's Committee.

#### **Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991**

5. The *Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991*, determines that a person has full legal capacity from the age of 16. However, as in the rest of the UK, parental consent, is required in Scotland, for any young person under the age of 18, before they can join the Armed Forces. All Service personnel have a statutory right to claim discharge up to their 18th birthday, and the right of discharge is made clear to all Service personnel on joining the Armed Forces.

6. The Armed Forces Enlistment Regulations (2009) also prohibits persons under the age of 18 from joining the Armed Forces without the consent of prescribed persons; in Scotland, those with parental responsibilities.

## **ANNEX C11**

### **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE**

#### **Lines to Take**

- While there is currently no legal right for pupils to remove themselves from Religious Observance, the flexible approach to learning and teaching afforded by Curriculum for Excellence in Scotland encourages schools to discuss options with both parents and their children, including in relation to a decision to withdraw from Religious Observance.
- Listening to the views of young people themselves on all aspects of education is very important, as we have clearly recognised through our approach in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the current Education Governance Review. We welcome the opportunity to work with key interests to discuss how we ensure this approach is fully reflected through religious observance guidance.
- We consulted on a revision to the 2011 guidance, in particular to make clear mention of the role of children and young people in decisions about their education, specifically in relation to any decisions about withdrawing from religious observance.
- This was not a review of the legislative provisions underpinning the provision of Religious Observance in schools, nor did it mark a shift in Scottish Government policy. Instead, the revisions to the guidance serve two purposes:
  - To ensure that readers are clear that young people should be involved in decisions about Religious Observance in their education; and
  - to bring references and language up-to-date and provide additional clarity where it is thought this is needed.

#### **Background**

1. There is no legal requirement in Scotland for schools to 'hold acts of collective worship', rather the term 'Religious Observance' is used. Scottish Government does not dictate how RO is carried out for each establishment; this is responsibility of the Headteacher. Additional guidance exists in the form of RO

Briefing Paper 16. Education Scotland Guidance is clear that in denominational contexts 'worship' is consistent with Catholic ethos of schools. It is also clear that 'worship' may be consistent with some school communities in Scotland.

2. There is a very fine line between religious observance and an act of worship, and indeed there may be instances where the two go hand in hand, so perhaps it is understandable that there is some confusion. The Religious Observance Review Group discussed this and agreed that *'worship is a free response of an individual and community to what is considered worthy of worship. This response involves three elements: belief in the reality of the focus of worship, desire to offer worship to the focus of worship and the commitment of life stances related to the focus of worship. An organised act of worship is based on the assumption that those present share these elements. Religious Observance does not assume these elements.'*

3. RO can offer opportunities for young people to reflect meaningfully on different points of view and values, including their own. It can promote critical thinking, support the development of an awareness that not all people think the same or share the same ideas and experiences about life.

#### **Parental Right to Withdraw**

4. Section 9 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 gives parents a right to withdraw their child from religious observance in local authority schools and grant-aided schools. There is no equivalent statutory right to withdraw afforded to children and young people. However many schools will find it helpful and sensible to include young people in any discussions about opting out, ensuring their wishes are aired. This seems especially relevant as young people become older and take more responsibility for their own learning.

#### **Judicial Review**

5. On 14 September 2016 the Humanist Society Scotland (HSS) served a petition for Judicial Review on Scottish Ministers to challenge certain aspects of the Scottish Government's position on RO. The petition has since been narrowed in scope, with the remaining point relating to a request that the Scottish Government's guidance on RO make clear mention of children's rights in any decisions about withdrawing from RO.

6. In correspondence with HSS in June 2016, the Scottish Government confirmed the current policy and guidance position. This letter restated the position regarding the legal right for parents to withdraw children, and added that: *"many schools will find it helpful and sensible to include young people in any discussions about opting out, ensuring their wishes are aired. This seems especially relevant as young people become older and take more responsibility for their own learning."*

7. In discussion with the HSS about the petition, the Scottish Government agreed to seek to reflect the substance of this additional commentary in appropriate terms in a revised version of the RO guidance letter. This was not a review of the legislative provisions underpinning the provision of Religious Observance in schools,

nor did it mark a shift in Scottish Government policy. Instead, the revisions to the guidance ensure that readers are clear that young people should be involved in decisions about Religious Observance in their education and to bring references and language up-to-date and provide additional clarity where it is thought this is needed. The revised guidance can be viewed at the link below.  
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00516155.pdf>

## **ANNEX D**

### **GENERAL LINES**

#### **GIRFEC – Information Sharing**

- On 28 July 2016, the Supreme Court judgment ruled that the principle of providing a Named Person for every child does not breach human rights and is compatible with EU law.
- The Supreme Court did, however, also determine that Ministers need to provide greater clarity about the basis on which health visitors, teachers and other professionals supporting families will share and receive information in their Named Person role.
- They ruled that the information-sharing provisions of Part 4 of the Act are incompatible with Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights and that changes are needed to make those provisions compatible with Article 8 – to ensure respect for one’s “private and family life, his home and his correspondence.”
- On 8 September 2016, Deputy First Minister John Swinney confirmed in Parliament that the Scottish Government would undertake a three month period of intense engagement to ensure that there is clear consensus across Scotland on how information sharing in relation to the Named Person should operate.
- Engagement activities involved more than 50 meetings with some 250 organisations and groups – and included around 700 young people, parents/carers, practitioners and professionals.
- The three-month period of engagement on the information sharing provisions of the Named Person legislation ended on 16 December.
- The Deputy First Minister announced 7th March he will bring forward a Bill that will include new provisions on when and how information can be shared by and with the Named Person service.
- The new provisions will ensure that we address the Supreme Court’s judgment, live up to our objective of supporting children and young people and give them and their families reassurance that their rights are respected fully.
- The intention is to introduce the Bill ahead of the summer recess. The DFM will work with Parliament to agree a timetable to enable commencement in 2018

### Scottish Attainment Challenge

- **We will allocate £750m during the course of this Parliament through the Attainment Scotland Fund** to tackle the poverty related attainment gap, targeting resources at the children, schools and communities most in need.
- **£120m is being allocated directly to Headteachers** on the basis of the numbers of pupils in P1-S3 known to be eligible and registered for free school meals, at a rate of £1,200 per pupil.
- This is **on top of the existing £50m Attainment Scotland funding** that will continue to provide targeted support for those authorities and schools supporting children and young people in greatest need.
- **These two funding streams – a total of £170m for 2017-18 – will contribute to our commitment to allocate £750m during the course of this Parliament through the Attainment Scotland Fund** to tackle the attainment gap, targeting resources at the children, schools and communities most in need.
- Our funding to date has already supported the employment of 160 full time teachers across the Scottish Attainment Challenge Local Authorities and Schools Programme.

### Early Learning and Childcare

- No government has done more to expand free early learning and childcare.
- I have set out the next phase of delivery for our ambitious plans to near double free early learning and childcare to 1140 hours per year by 2020.
- This expansion will help to grow our economy, tackle inequality, and close the attainment gap and is estimated to be **worth over £4,500 a year per child**, enabling more families to keep more of their income.
- The **expansion will be founded on quality, flexibility, choice and the needs of individual children and families**. Quality will be at the heart of provision.
- We will produce, in consultation with key stakeholders, a **Quality Action Plan** by the end of October 2017, that sets out what more needs to be done to strengthen the quality of ELC.
- We also want to ensure that the service model maximises flexibility for families, so that all parents can take up their entitlement for their children.
- There are few more important jobs than caring for our children so we have put fair pay at the heart of our plans to nearly double free early learning and childcare with

**commitment to extend the Living Wage to all childcare staff delivering funded entitlement by 2020.**

- ELC provision must ensure equality of access for all children so we will create a **£2 million inclusion fund** that enables staff to support children with ASN or disabilities.

### **Child Protection Improvement Programme**

- On 2 March, we published both the Child Protection Improvement Programme Report, and the report of the independent 'System Review' 'Protecting Scotland's Children and Young People: It is still everyone's job'.
- All recommendations within both reports have been accepted in full. The recommendations are now actions that will be implemented through phase two of the programme.
- The report of the Child Protection Improvement Programme sets out 35 Actions that will be taken forward in phase 2 of the programme, as well as the recommendations within Catherine Dyers System Review Report.
- CELCIS have received funding to deliver a core child protection function. This includes delivery of a Complex Case Support service; communications and events; syntheses of the literature; website; and coordination of independent reports to the Children's Hearings System.
- We will continue to keep stakeholders involved and informed during the implementation phase of this programme.

### **National Action Plan on Internet Safety**

- Published on 21 April, the action plan sets out a number of actions to improve internet safety. Its priorities include equipping children and young people themselves to stay safe online, supporting professionals, parents and carers and continuing to work with digital and social media providers to ensure children are not exposed to harm
- We want children and young people to be protected, safe and supported in the online world and for them to be able to enjoy the internet, show resilience and take advantage of the opportunities it has to offer.

### **Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility**

- As announced on 1 December 2016, we will bring forward legislation this term to raise the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility from 8 to 12 with appropriate safeguards in relation to issues such as police powers in exceptional cases to



investigate harmful behaviours or to take and retain forensic samplings, disclosure, and the impact on victims.

- This will be a standalone Bill and we will work with members across the Chamber to deliver this reform in time for our Year of Young People in 2018.

### **Disability Framework**

- Scottish Government is developing a framework to support disabled children, young people and their families, so they get the right support, at the right time, and in the right way from birth to adulthood.
- The Framework has children's rights at its heart, in particular the Information outcome will help to raise awareness of the rights of disabled children with parents and carers as well as children and young people.

### **Refugees / Trafficked Children**

- I am delighted that Scottish local authorities have welcomed unaccompanied children into their communities through the Dubs scheme.
- Scotland has now welcomed around 1,700 Syrian refugees under the Syrian Resettlement Programme since October 2015. 30 out of 32 Scottish local authorities have now received refugees under the Programme. Around half of the arrivals are believed to be children.
- However, these numbers are a tiny proportion of the estimated 90,000 unaccompanied children seeking a place of safety in Europe. This crisis demands a bold and humane response and we have urged the UK Government to do more.
- Any unaccompanied children will be safeguarded under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and have access to further services under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- Provisions within the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act, once implemented, will make the Independent Child Trafficking Guardian a statutory service. We are seeking to consult on the terms and conditions of the Guardian.

### **Care Review**

- The independent Care Review will be 'root and branch' and will look at the underpinning legislation, practices, culture and ethos of the system.
- Children and young people's voices, their stories and experiences, are at the heart of the Review, informing and directing discussion.

- The first stage of the review, the Discovery phase, will run from May to October 2017 and the recommendations made during this phase will guide and shape future stages of the Review.

### **Local Government Finance**

- The Scottish Government has treated local government very fairly despite the cuts to the Scottish Budget from the UK Government.
- In 2017/18 the overall potential increase in spending power to support local authority services amounted to over £400 million or 3.9% in cash terms.
- This figure takes into account the local government finance settlement plus the additional £160 million announced on 2 February and the other sources of support available through the actual and potential increases in council tax income, and the support through the Health and Social Care Integration.
- Even accounting for the 11 councils who did not increase their council tax by 3%, the overall spending power amounts to a £383 million increase.
- The 2017-18 local government finance settlement has been accepted by all 32 local authorities. Local authorities have now finalised their own budgets, which should include provision for each of the elements included in the package.

## ANNEX E

### BACKGROUND ON THE SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES INSIGHT INSTITUTE – SEMINAR SERIES

1. The Scottish Universities Insight Institute (SUII) seminar series has run since February 2017 and has been examining implementation of the UNCRC in Scotland from perspectives of law, practice and policy. The events offer an opportunity to bring together children and young people, civil society, academia and public bodies to examine Scotland's approach to taking forward children's rights.

- **The UNCRC in Law** – 10th February 2017: The first seminar explored strengths and weaknesses of using legislation to progress UNCRC implementation.
- **The UNCRC in Practice** – 20th March 2017: The second seminar explored methods through which children and young people's views and experiences are – and could be – used to inform legislative and policy developments and how children's rights are fulfilled in practice.
- **The UNCRC in Policy** – 24th April 2017: The third seminar used learning from participants to explore how new policy developments (e.g. child rights impact assessments and planning in children's services) can provide opportunities to further children's rights and their participation in policy developments.
- **The UNCRC Going Forwards** – 1st June 2017: The final seminar will bring together all the learning, experience and proposals of the previous three seminars in order to develop a shared and sustainable model to take forward children's rights in Scotland. The Minister will speak at this seminar.

2. The seminar series is being held in partnership between Together Scotland, the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships at the University of Edinburgh and the Centre for Wellbeing and Protection at the University of Stirling. The Series has been funded by the Scottish Universities Insight Institute (SUII).

#### Biographies

3. **Juliet Harris, Director of Together** – Juliet leads the organisation in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) across Scotland. This includes working with Together's membership of over 300 children's organisations and professionals to produce an annual State of Children's Rights report, liaising with government and parliamentarians to further children's rights in policy and practice, and reporting on progress to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

**Biographies of other speakers will be available at the event.**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 01 February 2017 13:57:40  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Cc: Minister for Childcare and Early Years  
Subject: FW: The UNCRC Going Forward: 1st June

Attachments: Mark McDonald MSP letter response.pdf

FOR MACCS - DIARY

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary | Minister for Childcare & Early Years

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\* Office: 0131 244 5538 | Mobile: 07881 282 959 |

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From: McDonald M (Mark), MSP [REDACTED]  
Sent: 31 January 2017 18:19  
To: Minister for Childcare and Early Years  
Subject: FW: The UNCRC Going Forward: 1st June

From: Liz Millership [REDACTED]  
Sent: 31 January 2017 16:50  
To: McDonald M (Mark), MSP  
Subject: The UNCRC Going Forward: 1st June

Dear Mark McDonald MSP,

Many thanks for the letter reply (attached) received on 31st January 2017 regarding your involvement in the final seminar of the Scottish Universities Insight Institute (SUII) funded series.

The 'UNCRC Going Forward' on 1st June 2017 will bring together all the learning, experience and proposals of the previous three seminars in order to develop a shared and sustainable model to take forward children's rights in Scotland, and aims to drive a culture change in the monitoring and implementation of the UNCRC.

Together, the University of Edinburgh and the University of Stirling would welcome your input as a speaker at this final seminar and request confirmation of this at your convenience.

We will of course be able to provide more information regarding the programme in due course.

Kind regards,

Liz

From: Liz Millership  
Sent: 11 January 2017 15:02  
To: [REDACTED]

>>

Subject: Invite to child rights seminar

Dear Mark McDonald MSP,

Together, the University of Edinburgh and the University of Stirling are inviting yourself -- or an advisor -- to register for the 'UNCRC in Law' on Friday 10th February, the first of four seminars to examine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Scotland as part of a Scottish Universities Insight Institute (SUII) <<http://www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/Programmes/Programmes20162017/RightsOfTheChild.aspx>> funded programme. These seminars will examine the UNCRC from perspectives in law, practice and policy.

The 'UNCRC in Law' will include discussion and debate from a range of child law specialists and academics including representatives from Wales, Ireland and Scotland, as well as presentations from third sector representatives such as Clan Childlaw who provide children with access to legal advice and support in Scotland.

By exploring the strengths and weaknesses of using legislation to progress UNCRC implementation, the project aims to agree a set of priorities for research, policy and practice in Scotland to support the implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) 2014 Act and drive improved monitoring and implementation of the UNCRC at a local and national government level.

This seminar is the first of a 4-part series:

1. The UNCRC in Law: Friday 10th February 2017
2. The UNCRC in Practice: Monday 20th March 2017
3. The UNCRC in Policy: Monday 24th April 2017
4. The UNCRC Going Forwards: Thursday 1st June 2017

Please see our webpage here for more information and registration <<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/seminar-one-the-uncrc-in-law-registration-29604801759>>.

Kind regards,  
Liz Millership  
Policy and Communications Officer

T: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

W: [www.togetherscotland.org.uk](http://www.togetherscotland.org.uk)

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Together - Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights  
Level 1 Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5EZ  
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Ministear airson Cùram-chloinne agus Tràth-  
bhliadhnaichean  
Minister for Childcare and Early Years  
Mark McDonald BPA/MSP



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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Ms Liz Millership  
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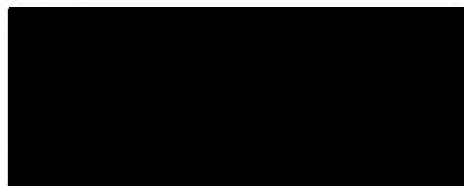
Your ref:  
Our ref: 2017/0000915  
30 January 2017

Dear Liz

Thank you for your email of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 inviting Mark McDonald, MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early years, to your upcoming child rights seminars. Unfortunately, Mr McDonald is unable to attend the upcoming seminars in February, March, and April 2017, but has asked me to pass on his best wishes for a series of successful events.

We have been made aware that you may wish to invite Mr McDonald to the final seminar on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 as a potential speaker, please get in touch with us if that is the case as it may be considered subject to his availability.

Yours sincerely



Private Secretary