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Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee

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Dear Convener

When I last attended the Committee to discuss the provision of funded early learning and childcare to two-year-olds on 09 March, there was discussion of the UK Government consultation on draft Regulations that would allow for Scottish local authorities to receive data on eligible families in their area, from DWP and HMRC.

I am writing to make you aware that the UK Government has published their response to the findings of the consultation today:

[Digital Economy Act 2017: Scottish Early Learning and Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/digital-economy-act-2017-scottish-early-learning-and-childcare)

You will see from the publication that the UK Government has committed to taking forward legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows.

As members of the Committee know, uptake of this important element of the funded ELC offer has increased. The aim of our work on data sharing is to see a significant difference to how local authorities can engage with local eligible families on their local offer.

I look forward to providing the Committee with a further update once the Regulations are due to be laid in the UK Parliament.

I thank the Committee for their continued interest in and support for this work.

CLARE HAUGHEY

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