

26 July 2023

Ms Webber MSP  
Education, Children and Young People Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Via Email - [ecyp.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:ecyp.committee@parliament.scot)

Dear Ms Webber,

Thank you for your letter of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Local Government in Scotland is committed to tackling child poverty; supporting and improving the wellbeing of children and young people; closing the attainment gap; and supporting pupils of all backgrounds to engage fully in their education. A wide range of work undertaken by councils contributes towards the achievement of these aims, including provision of free school meals (currently available for all children attending funded early learning and childcare, all primary 1-5 pupils, and older pupils who are eligible on the basis of low-income).

Whilst there is no requirement or national funding provided to do so, some councils also choose to provide access to free breakfasts in schools and a range of approaches to provision exist across the country. COSLA has not collected and does not hold information relating to delivery models or approaches currently in place, or the scale of provision currently available.

With regards to Scottish Government's commitment to provide free breakfasts to primary and special school pupils, in line with the new [Verity House Agreement](#), plans for taking this forward (including models, funding requirements, and delivery planning) should be considered and agreed in partnership with Local Government. As with all new national policies, this commitment will require full resourcing from Scottish Government to enable successful delivery.

I hope this information is useful to the Committee in their consideration of this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Councillor Tony Buchanan  
**COSLA Children and Young People Board Spokesperson**