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Sue Webber MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People
Committee
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24 March 2023

Dear Sue,

I am writing to inform the Committee that the Scottish Government has today published their response to the consultation on inspection of early learning and childcare (ELC) and school age childcare services, as well as the full analysis. The [consultation response](#) and the [full consultation analysis report](#) can be accessed on the Scottish Government's webpages.

The [consultation](#) was undertaken last year following [Professor Muir's independent review on aspects of education reform in Scotland](#), which recommended that, as a matter of urgency, the education inspectorate should re-engage with the Care Inspectorate to agree a shared inspection framework designed to reduce the burden on ELC practitioners and centres.

The consultation, which ran for 16 weeks from July to October 2022, gathered views on the strengths of existing inspection arrangements, where improvements can be made and on specific proposals to streamline and improve the inspection of ELC and school age childcare services through the introduction of a shared quality framework.

In total, 254 written responses were provided to the consultation, while 11 events recorded comments provided by 380+ attendees. We are very grateful to all who took the time to provide their views. Feedback was received from a wide range of respondents, including local authorities, trade unions, ELC and school aged childcare representative and membership bodies, academic organisations, the Inspectorates (the Care Inspectorate and HMIE/Education Scotland), and parents/carers. The largest proportion of responses came from practitioners and childcare providers themselves.

The Scottish Government response to the consultation findings outlines some areas where work is already underway or developing in terms of improving the inspection landscape. It also sets out where we will work with others to respond to the consultation findings in the coming months.

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The response contains a joint statement from the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland that confirms their commitment to working together to develop a shared framework for inspections, in partnership with each other and the sector.

You can access the consultation analysis [here](#) and the full Government consultation response [here](#).

If you have any questions about the consultation response, please do not hesitate to contact my officials at Sandra.Aitken@gov.scot and Francois.Roos@gov.scot .

Kind regards,

CLARE HAUGHEY

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