

Sue Webber MSP  
Convener  
Education, Children and Young People's Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

04 July 2024

By email

Dear Sue

### **Additional Support for Learning inquiry**

I have followed the Committee's inquiry into the implementation of the presumption of mainstreaming for children and young people with additional support for learning (ASL) needs.

The Accounts Commission and I have a close interest in this important aspect of education. As you will be aware, the Accounts Commission published [a blog on ASL](#) in May 2022, which highlighted that the ASL needs of children and young people were not consistently being met and raised concerns about their rights and equalities.

As the Committee's report notes, ASL is a complex area. The Committee asked Audit Scotland to consider undertaking work on cross-cutting spend. The Accounts Commission and I had already committed to such work in our work programme. We are factoring in the Committee's request while we scope our audit, with our intention being to look at how ASL is resourced and delivered, and the challenges in addressing ASL needs.

We aim to start our audit work soon and publish a joint Auditor General and Accounts Commission briefing in early 2025. The audit team will liaise with the Committee's clerking team to keep them updated on our progress. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss this work with our ASL team, please contact Tricia Meldrum (Senior Manager) at [tmeldrum@audit-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:tmeldrum@audit-scotland.gov.uk) or Mark McCabe (Audit Manager) at [mmccabe@audit-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:mmccabe@audit-scotland.gov.uk).

**Yours sincerely**

**Stephen Boyle**  
**Auditor General for Scotland**