



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Natalie Don-Innes MSP  
Minister for Children, Young People  
and the Promise  
Scottish Government

Liz Smith CBE MSP  
Scottish Parliament

By email

31 March 2025

Dear Minister

**Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill – Financial Resolution**

I am writing following the Stage 1 debate on the Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill, and the Parliament's agreement to the General Principles of my Bill.

As you are aware, Stage 2 proceedings on the Bill cannot commence until the Parliament has agreed a Financial Resolution, and, under Rule 9.12.7 of Standing Orders, a motion for such a resolution can only be lodged by a member of the Scottish Government or junior Scottish Minister.

In your response to the Stage 1 report of the Education, Children and Young People Committee, and again in the Stage 1 debate, you indicated that you will only lodge a motion for a Financial Resolution if and when what you have determined as the affordability and other practical implementation challenges of the provisions can be addressed, up to 6 months following the conclusion of Stage 1.

Whilst I am disappointed that you do not currently feel able to lodge a motion for a Financial Resolution, I hope that the challenges to which you refer can quickly be overcome and such a motion can be lodged at the earliest opportunity to allow the Parliament to commence Stage 2 proceedings and give Members the opportunity to refine my Bill.

I am therefore writing to request an early meeting to discuss ways in which these challenges can be overcome to enable you to lodge a motion for a Financial Resolution lodged.

Please can you contact Gavin McWhinnie in my office to arrange a suitable time for a meeting. As with our previous meeting, I will be accompanied by Mike Harvey from my office and Neil Stewart from the Non-Government Bills Unit.

I am copying this letter to Douglas Ross MSP, Convener of the Education, Children and Young People Committee.

Yours sincerely

**Liz Smith MSP**