



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education, Children and Young People Committee

Jenny Gilruth
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

10 March 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Personal data sharing - GDPR legislation.

The Committee is currently undertaking a short inquiry into [widening access to further education](#) and took evidence from the Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans at its meeting on 5 March 2025. The [Official Report](#) of that meeting will be published on the website.

During evidence, the Committee explored the potential need for the Scottish Government to legislate to enable data to be shared more effectively between local authorities and institutions. The Committee heard of the barriers in relation to what data sharing is permissible under GDPR, specifically in relation to the pilot in the North East of Scotland looking at Free School Meals data in addition to SIMD as a means of identifying students eligible for widening access measures. The Committee also heard of data sharing barriers in relation to the establishment of a unique learner number for students. The Committee has asked the Minister for information on these barriers.

In addition, the Committee agreed to write to you to request further information on personal data sharing more widely within the education sector and what is permissible under GDPR legislation. The Committee would be grateful if you could provide details of the Scottish Government's consideration of this issue and whether it plans to legislate in this area.

I would be grateful if you could respond by **28 March 2025**. I am copying this letter to the Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Ross MSP, Convener

Contact: Education, Children and Young People Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email ecyp.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.