



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

Graeme Dey MSP

T3.60

Minister for Higher and Further Education,
and Minister for Veterans
Scottish Government

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email only—

ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

1 June 2023

Dear Minister

I am writing on behalf of the Education, Children, and Young People Committee regarding the Scottish Government's delayed plans for establishing a two-way replacement Scottish Exchange Programme (SEEP).

The Committee heard evidence from Taith and YouthLink Scotland officials on 24 May 2023. The Official Report of that meeting can be found [here](#).

Following on from this session, the Committee would like to invite you to provide evidence at its meeting on **Wednesday 21 June**.

The Committee also acknowledges your letter of 19 May 2023. Ahead of your appearance, the Committee would appreciate further detail on the following issues:

1. In its [Programme for Government 2021-22](#), the Scottish Government pledged to “develop a Scottish Education Exchange Programme to support the international mobility of staff and learners, and work to re-secure Scotland’s access to the Erasmus + Programme” (p 46). Can you clarify what work has been undertaken to date to establish a Scottish Education Exchange Programme?

2. Although only established last year, the education exchange scheme in Wales, Taith, already appears to be operating successfully. As such, it may provide a useful model for a future Scottish scheme. The Committee is aware that there has been some interaction between Taith and Scottish Government officials. Can you provide an update on this?
3. What assessment has been made of the cost of establishing a Scottish Education Exchange Programme?
4. Has the Scottish Government piloted any international learning exchange schemes to date to inform the development of SEEP? If so, please provide further details.
5. How would SEEP guarantee two-way movement to ensure that Scottish students can benefit from experiences overseas but also that Scotland attracts overseas students?
6. Which governance structures do you envisage being put in place to ensure the operation of SEEP is appropriately managed?
7. What is the timeline for SEEP's introduction and why has it not been introduced before now?

The Committee would welcome a response to this letter by **Wednesday 14 June 2023**.

Yours sincerely

Sue Webber MSP
Convener