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Karen Adam MSP
Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice
Committee

6 March 2025

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your letter of 7th February regarding the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967.

I can confirm that the Scottish Government intends to refresh and modernise the School Premises Regulations to ensure that they meet the needs of pupils and schools in Scotland, and a consultation will commence this year.

The School Premises Regulations set out the broad minimum standards that school buildings must meet, and go much wider than the provision of school toilets. For example, they cover issues that may impact on the welfare of pupils, such as lighting or classroom spaces; or on their education, such as access to playing fields.

The work previously undertaken on updating the School Premises Regulations following the consultation in 2017/18 was paused due to a number of substantial issues, for example the Covid pandemic. It should also be recognised that the social context around children and young people has progressed since the previous exercise, for example we have seen an increased focus on good quality ventilation following the Covid pandemic, and the School Premises Regulations must take these developments into account.

Scottish Government officials have so far taken steps to engage with relevant Scottish Government policy teams with an interest in this work, and also with bodies such as Scottish Future Trust and Architecture and Design Scotland. They will also be reaching out to further interested parties in due course.

Consultation responses will inform areas of focus for any proposals for changes to update the School Premises Regulations before these are brought forward.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

I hope that this further demonstrates that this Government is committed to ensuring our school environments support every child and young person to reach their full potential for learning.

Yours sincerely,

JENNY GILRUTH

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