



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education, Children and Young People Committee

28 November 2024

Dear Kenneth

Scrutiny of SPCB supported bodies

Thank you for your letter of 13 November regarding scrutiny of SPCB supported bodies.

The Education, Children and Young People Committee last took evidence from the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland at its meeting on 17 April, following the publication of the Commissioner's strategic plan for 2024-28. Whilst that session touched on issues around the Commissioner's budget, the main focus of the session was the strategic aims and objectives set out by the Commissioner (in consultation with children and young people).

Given the Commissioner's independence, the Committee does not have a role in reviewing specific decisions or actions, but rather to look at how overarching priorities are set. The Committee's scrutiny work during this session has therefore focused on how the Commissioner has carried out her functions at a high level.

The Committee is not in a position to set out its views on budget, spending and performance of the Commissioner, as this has not been the primary focus of its scrutiny. The Committee notes, however, that the SPCB has a governance role for officeholders, covering areas such as the approval of an annual budget, providing for personal accountability through annual evaluations and scrutinising officeholders in relation to their financial accountability.

The Committee plans to invite the Commissioner to give further evidence prior to the summer recess. The focus of that session will be to look at what progress has been made in meeting the Commissioner's strategic objectives. The Committee will also look at the Commissioner's annual report, and consider any outcomes achieved.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Ross MSP
Convener

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