

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Douglas Ross MSP  
Convener  
Education, Children and Young People  
Committee  
By email: [ecyp.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:ecyp.committee@parliament.scot)

23 January 2025

Dear Convener,

## **PUBLICATION OF UPDATED GUIDANCE ON HOME EDUCATION**

I am writing to make the Committee aware of the Scottish Government's publication of updated home education guidance on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.

I informed Parliament of the publication on Thursday 23 January and the updated guidance is available at: [www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836911357](http://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836911357).

The Scottish Government last published statutory guidance on home education in 2007. A consultation ran in 2022 on updating this guidance, with a consultation analysis report published in February 2023.

The updated home education guidance reflects the changing context in which home education takes place in Scotland and sets out a child's rights-based approach to home education.

Publication of the updated guidance follows additional consultation with stakeholders on various key changes, such as the expectation of an in-person meeting, and for that to include the child where the child wishes to provide their views; the expectation that a home educating family will make themselves known to their local authority, even where this is not required by legislation; and stronger language on the implications of the choice to home educate (e.g. on qualifications and additional support). The accompanying impact assessments will publish alongside the guidance shortly.

Scottish Ministers want all those involved in a child's education to be informed and equipped regarding home education, to better understand the circumstances and choices made by parents, and the responsibilities that parents take on when choosing to home educate.

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

With this updated guidance, Scottish Ministers continue to encourage local authorities and parents to work together to develop trust, mutual respect and a positive relationship that functions in the best educational interests of the child.

We consider that the updated guidance goes further, within the scope of current legislation, to strengthen engagement between the family and the local authority to support safeguarding, but it does not remove the routes through which a family may access home education without the awareness of the local authority (for example if a child has never been enrolled at a local authority school).

Officials will work with local authorities to discuss options to collate high-level data from local authorities, to enable a national picture of home education. Work with stakeholders will continue following publication to discuss any issues raised and provide any necessary assistance with the implementation of the guidance.

Yours sincerely,

**JENNY GILRUTH**

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**™  
We invest in people Silver



α