

Ministear airson Clann, Daoine Òga is
Cumail ris a' Ghealladh
Minister for Children, Young People and
Keeping the Promise
Natalie Don MSP/ BPA



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
The Social Justice and
Social Security Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

By email:
SJSS.committee@Parliament.scot

20 December 2023

Dear Convener,

Thank you for the opportunity to attend your committee session on 9 November to talk about kinship care, the work underway to refresh the guidance for Part 13 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the kinship care assessment framework that has been developed to assist practitioners and kinship families. I thought it may be helpful to update you on progress.

I mentioned during the session that we would undertake engagement sessions with kinship carers, kinship practitioners and the Kinship Care Collaborative during November to seek their views on the draft documents. Whilst the refreshed guidance and assessment framework was welcomed by stakeholders, and feedback was positive regarding the case studies, there were areas highlighted that need further consideration. In particular, they requested the inclusion of case studies on pre-birth and bereavement in the refreshed guidance. We want to make sure we are getting the guidance right for our carers and those who work with them, and to ensure we give it the attention it deserves. This means that the publication of the refreshed guidance and assessment framework will be delayed slightly until the end of January/ early February 2024. It is our plan that the publication will be supported by awareness raising sessions for practitioners, and information will be made available to kinship carers.

At the Committee session, I committed to write to the Secretary of State for Education in the UK Government regarding the provision of family leave for kinship carers. I will ensure the Committee are copied into the response.

I hope this is helpful and I will keep the Committee updated on the progress of publication and our wider work, and will write again in the new year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Don', with a circular flourish around the 'o'.

NATALIE DON MSP