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Clare Adamson MSP*
Convener, Education and Skills Committee
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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*By email to: es.committee@parliament.scot

Lo December 2018

Clare,

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF P1 ASSESSMENTS

In my statement to Parliament on P1 standardised assessments on 25 October 2018, I announced the establishment of an independent review of these assessments. Following advice from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, I am writing to inform you I have appointed David Reedy to lead this review.

Mr Reedy was Co-Director of the Cambridge Primary Review Trust from 2013-17 and has served as both General Secretary and President of the United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA). He has also previously held the post of Principal Adviser Primary Schools in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Mr Reedy has a wealth of relevant experience and also I believe the necessary distance from the recent debate on P1 assessments in Scotland to bring a fresh and impartial perspective to the review.

Mr Reedy will be supported by a small review team who are familiar with the Scottish context. The team will be assembled by the Chief Inspector and will include Scottish practitioners, representation from the early years sector and a member of the Inspectorate.

The review will consider and provide recommendations on the following issues:

- the compatibility of the assessments with the play-based curriculum model in the early level of Curriculum for Excellence;
- the alignment of the assessments to the benchmarks for the early level;
- the effect on P1 children of taking an on-line assessment;
- the usefulness of the diagnostic information provided to teachers and how it supports their professional judgement;
- the implications of the review for the ongoing implementation of the national Gaelic-medium education standardised assessments; and

- the future of the assessments, considering in particular whether they continue in line with the current continuous improvement model; be substantially modified; or whether they should be stopped.

The detailed remit and terms of reference for the review will be agreed with Mr Reedy and published early in the New Year, along with the details of the review team.

The review will start in January 2019, with a report being submitted to the Scottish Ministers by the end of May 2019. This will allow time for the recommendations of the review to be considered by the Parliament ahead of the Summer recess.



JOHN SWINNEY



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Mr Iain Gray MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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Our ref: 2018/0039592
20 December 2018

Thank you for your letter of 6 November regarding the independent review of P1 assessments. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the membership and remit of the review. As I mentioned in my parliamentary statement in October, I very much welcome the views of other parties on this issue.

As I announced to Parliament earlier today, I have appointed David Reedy to lead the review. Mr Reedy was Co-Director of the Cambridge Primary Review Trust from 2013-17 and has served as both General Secretary and President of the United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA). Mr Reedy has also previously held the post of Principal Adviser Primary Schools in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Mr Reedy has a wealth of relevant experience and also I believe the necessary distance from the recent debate on P1 assessments in Scotland to bring a fresh and impartial perspective to the review.

Mr Reedy will be supported by a small review team who are familiar with the Scottish context. The team will be assembled by the Chief Inspector and will include Scottish practitioners, representation from the early years sector and a member of the Inspectorate.

I have noted your suggestions about who should be included in the review team. I fully agree with your assertion that the review must hear from a broad range of stakeholders, including those who have been critical of our approach. However, I believe it would undermine the independence of the review to include in the review group individuals who have expressed strong views either way on the use of standardised assessments at P1. Instead, I will ensure that, as part of the review, Mr Reedy has the opportunity to hear evidence from all stakeholders, including those referenced in your letter.

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The review will start in January 2019, with a report being submitted to the Scottish Ministers by the end of May 2019. This will allow time for the recommendations of the review to be considered by the Parliament ahead of the Summer recess.



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Mr Ross Greer MSP
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Our ref: 2018/0041283
20 December 2018

R Ross,

Thank you for your letter of 15 November regarding the independent review of P1 assessments.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the membership and remit of the review. As I mentioned in my parliamentary statement in October, I very much welcome the views of other parties on this issue.

As I announced to Parliament earlier today, I have appointed David Reedy to lead the review. Mr Reedy was Co-Director of the Cambridge Primary Review Trust from 2013-17 and has served as both General Secretary and President of the United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA). Mr Reedy has also previously held the post of Principal Adviser Primary Schools in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Mr Reedy has a wealth of relevant experience and also I believe the necessary distance from the recent debate on P1 assessments in Scotland to bring a fresh and impartial perspective to the review.

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Ms Liz Smith MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 2018/0040987
20 December 2018

Liz

Thank you for your letter of 13 November regarding the independent review of P1 assessments. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the membership and remit of the review. As I mentioned in my parliamentary statement in October, I very much welcome the views of other parties on this issue.

As I announced to Parliament earlier today, I have appointed David Reedy to lead the review. Mr Reedy was Co-Director of the Cambridge Primary Review Trust from 2013-17 and has served as both General Secretary and President of the United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA). Mr Reedy has also previously held the post of Principal Adviser Primary Schools in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Mr Reedy has a wealth of relevant experience and also I believe the necessary distance from the recent debate on P1 assessments in Scotland to bring a fresh and impartial perspective to the review.

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