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By email

4 May 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Incorporation of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scottish Law

Responding to the coronavirus pandemic is a matter of the greatest national importance, and the scale of the challenge in front of us is truly without precedent. We recognise that in times of emergency, it is even more important to respect human rights. The Scottish Government will continue to ensure the rights of children and young people are protected as we tackle this crisis and beyond.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your work as part of the Incorporating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into Domestic Law in Scotland Working Group. I look forward to receiving your report once finalised.

I would also like to update you on our progress towards the incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law. We are absolutely committed to the incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and will introduce a Bill to incorporate it this year, in line with the original timescale. The Bill will aim to ensure that there is a proactive culture of everyday accountability for children's rights across public services in Scotland. This will mean that children, young people and their families will experience public bodies consistently acting to uphold the rights of all children in Scotland. It is our intention that the Bill will result in the highest protection for children's rights possible.

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Thank you for all you have already done, and are continuing to do, for Scotland's children, young people and wider society in relation to the extraordinary challenges we are facing.

Best Wishes,

MAREE TODD

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