



7 December 2017

John Swinney MSP  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for  
Education and Skills

By email: [DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)

Dear John,

Following the publication of the Scottish Government's Education Bill Consultation Document, I am writing to express a deep sense of disappointment and frustration regarding the content of that document and a concern that, in certain areas, the consultation appears to contradict the agreement that we reached on regional collaboration.

COSLA Leaders considered the Education Bill Consultation document at our meeting on 24 November and, at the meeting, there was cross party unity on our position that the options outlined in that document clearly remove local democratic accountability for curriculum and improvement from elected members to head teachers. It is unclear how this would support the achievement of excellence and equity in education and, in fact, is more likely to remove the whole system approach that supports our most vulnerable children and their families.

Furthermore, the agreement we reached on regional collaboration clearly outlined that the Collaboratives should be focused on "additionality" and not "displacement" of existing governance and service delivery. The proposal then that key areas of local government responsibility such as improvement planning should be centralised to a regional level is a clear affront to local democracy and a retraction on our position of agreement.

In light of the serious concerns voiced by COSLA Leaders, I have asked COSLA officers to seek a political meeting so we can address these matters in person.

I look forward to your response and to an early meeting.

Regards,

Councillor Stephen McCabe

**Spokesperson for Children and Young People**

WHEN CALLING PLEASE ASK FOR: [redacted]

[redacted]