

**From:** [redacted - 38(1)(b) ]  
**Sent:** 20 August 2018 10:46  
**To:** [redacted - 38(1)(b) ]  
**Cc:** [redacted - 38(1)(b) ]  
**Subject:** Reply from the Scottish Government.

**Sent on behalf of** [redacted - 38(1)(b) ]

Dear [redacted - 38(1)(b) ],

Thank you for your correspondence. Please see the attached reply which includes a reference number for future use.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted - 38(1)(b) ]



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By email: [redacted 38(1)(b)]

Our ref: 2018/0025325

20 August 2018

Dear [redacted 378(1)(b)]

Thank you for your email regarding the Education Bill and the statement by the Deputy First Minister announcing that the Scottish Government will not be seeking to introduce the Bill at this time. I have been asked to reply.

I can assure you that the Scottish Government remains committed to empowering schools and school communities to improve outcomes for their children and young people.

In developing the Education Bill we consulted extensively on how we can best empower and support our schools. It is clear from that consultation process that whilst there is widespread support for our school empowerment aims, many remain unconvinced that new legislation is required to achieve our reform goals.

The Scottish Government is, therefore, now progressing with education reform through non-legislative means – enabled by a landmark agreement between Scottish Government and COSLA.

Working in partnership with COSLA will allow Scottish Government to implement reform far quicker than would be possible through legislation – with empowerment of schools and headteachers possible from the beginning of the new school term in 2018. This ensures that the impact on excellence and equity for our children and young people can be achieved quicker.

An independent review will be carried out to ensure that significant and meaningful progress is achieved throughout the next academic year. If significant progress is not made in developing an empowered school system the draft Education Bill could be introduced to Parliament in future.

Both the draft Bill and Joint Agreement between Scottish Government and Local Government were published on 26<sup>th</sup> June and can be accessed through the Scottish Government website at the web links below:

Draft Education Bill: <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/draft-education-scotland-bill/>

Joint Agreement: <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/education-bill-policy-ambition-joint-agreement/>

Additionally in your email you suggest that the number of Scottish local authorities should be reduced. However, Ministers have no current plans to change the number of council in Scotland. Instead of restructuring, the Scottish Government's priority is to make existing structures work better for people and communities.

I hope that this goes some way to addressing your concerns.

Kind regards.

**[Redacted 38(1)(b)]**