

## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

From: Graeme Logan  
Learning Directorate  
x44762

5 June 2019

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

### INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF P1 ASSESSMENTS

#### Purpose

1. To provide DFM with a draft Parliamentary statement on the outcome of the Independent Review of P1 assessments and to seek his comments and approval to publish the Scottish Government's responses to:

- The recommendations in the Review report;
- The recommendations in the Education and Skills Committee SNSA Inquiry report;
- The P1 Practitioner Forum report; and
- The 2018/19 SNSA User Review progress report.

2. It would also be helpful to get DFM's views on the most appropriate time to publish the summary report which brings together the key activity that we will be taking forward in response to the three reports and the User Review interim progress report. We suggest publishing the summary report and proposed actions in draft form, to enable us to continue to work together with ADES, COSLA and Education Scotland to agree the best approach to taking forward the improvements. Publishing the plan as a draft enables us to build on initial discussions with key partners such as COSLA and ADES, ensuring that our approaches to improvement are co-constructed and reflect an empowered system. Education Scotland regional teams will be involved in working with partners to shape the implementation of many of the areas for improvement at local level to take account of local needs and priorities. We recommend that the approach to improvement is discussed and agreed with the Scottish Education Council, with an initial discussion planned for the Council meeting on 25 June 2019.

#### Priority

3. **Urgent.** DFM is expected to make a statement to Parliament on Tuesday 11 June and our responses to the various reports are to be published alongside that.

#### Background

4. In response to the Parliamentary vote on P1 SNSA in September 2018, DFM commissioned David Reedy to carry out an independent review of P1 assessments and to report to Ministers by the end of May 2019. We received Mr Reedy's Review report in May and DFM met him to discuss it on 5 June.

5. In announcing the Review in December 2018, DFM indicated that Parliament would have the opportunity to discuss the findings of the Review prior to the summer

## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

recess – a Parliamentary statement is planned for Tuesday 11 June at 2.20pm. A draft statement has been prepared for DFM (Annex A).

6. We plan to publish our response to Mr Reedy's report (Annex B) alongside the DFM's statement. The Review makes a number of recommendations, all of which we believe we can accept in full or in part.

### Main conclusions and recommendations

7. The headline finding of the Review report is the recommendation that P1 SNSA has the potential to play a significant role in informing and enhancing teachers' professional judgements and should be continued with modification and safeguards against a drift towards high stakes. Mr Reedy found 'scant' evidence of P1 pupils being upset by the assessments. He did however identify some important issues to be addressed including the view from some teachers and headteachers that introduction of the P1 SNSA undervalues professionalism.

8. Some specific recommendations that DFM will wish to note are:

- Retain the P1 SNSA to inform professional judgements about learning and teaching but address the recommendations which address the key issues identified in this Review, particularly in respect of the P1 literacy SNSA.
- Provide a detailed rationale for P1 SNSA setting out the purposes and uses of P1 SNSA at individual, class, school, local authority and national levels. This should include a statement that the intention of P1 SNSA data is solely focused on informing learning and teaching and will not be used for accountability purposes now or in the future.
- At an early date, bring together stakeholders to develop a practical framework/Code of Practice which sets out what SNSA data in P1 should productively be used for and what it should not, including a statement about purpose. This framework should then be used as the basis for agreement in every school about the purposes and uses of P1 SNSA data.
- Continue to develop guidance and examples of the ways in which a play-based approach to learning and teaching can accommodate administration of the P1 SNSA.
- Recommend that, as part of its ongoing review process, ACER reduce the number of items in the P1 literacy SNSA.

9. [redacted – one paragraph - exemption applies]

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## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

### Timing and sequencing of publications

10. To ensure we have a coordinated and coherent position on SNSA moving forward, we intend to publish our responses to the recommendations in the Education and Skills Committee SNSA inquiry (Annex C) and the P1 Practitioner Forum (Annex D) at the same time as our response to Mr Reedy's Review. We will also publish a progress report from the 2018/19 User Review (Annex E), which will contain a series of changes/enhancements to the SNSA as part of our continuous improvement model. Taken together, the three reports and User Review give us a comprehensive suite of up to date, evidence-based information and recommendations to shape future activity.

11. We have considered different sequencing of publication of the various documents and whether there would be any merit in publishing any of the responses ahead of the statement. We have concluded that simultaneous publication would be preferable. The Review and response to it will be subject to parliamentary privilege and must be published alongside DFM's statement. Both the P1 Forum and Committee inquiry responses refer to the Reedy review, so couldn't precede that publication (we are due to respond to the Committee by 23 June). We could look to publish the User Review progress report before the statement but believe this risks further negative media coverage around Ministers "prejudging" the outcome of Mr Reedy's Review. We suggest therefore that the best time to publish this is as part of the package of SG responses to the various reports.

### Summary of improvement activity

12. We propose also to publish a separate document ("Standardised assessments in Scotland: improvement activity 2019/20") combining the various actions we have undertaken to deliver in our responses to the three reports in a single document for ease of reference and accessibility. A draft is attached at Annex F. Some of these actions, such as providing greater clarity on the purposes of the assessments, will address recommendations from all 3 reports. This document will also take account of the User Review, including the feedback from children, young people and teachers who have been involved with the assessments this year. This summary of improvement activity represents a comprehensive plan of action.

13. Between now and 11 June we will continue to refine this document to ensure that the draft summary of improvement activity plan is as coherent and succinct as possible. We will also ensure that all of the activity has a date by which it will be completed.

### Handling

14. We will publish a news release outlining the key findings from Mr Reedy's review (in particular that the assessments are valuable and should be continued) and the changes that we will be making in response. We understand that Colin and comms colleagues will also have further views on handling once they have had the chance to consider the various documents, including the summary of improvement activity.

Commented [WM(1)]: I remain concerned that this is too prescriptive and long and does not read as if we are engaging with the field

**RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS**

**Conclusion**

**15. DFM is invited to:**

- Note the draft Parliamentary statement for 11 June (Annex A) and offer any comments/amendments
- Note the main conclusions and recommendations from the Independent Review of P1 assessments, including the timing issue in respect of a shorter literacy assessment;
- Agree the draft responses to the Independent Review (Annex B), the Education and Skills Committee SNSA inquiry (Annex C) and the P1 Practitioner Forum (Annex D) for publication on 11 June;
- Agree the 2018/19 User Review interim progress report (Annex E) for publication on 11 June; and
- Note the draft summary of improvement activity (Annex F) and agree this should be discussed and agreed with the Scottish Education Council prior to publication later this month.

Commented [WM(2)]: Please see above- do we have to go with a plan...??

**Graeme Logan**

Learning Directorate: Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing  
5 June 2019

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister					X
Minister for Parliamentary Business					X
Minister for Childcare and Early Years					X
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science					X

Paul Johnston, DG Learning, Communities & Justice  
 Fiona Robertson, Director of Learning  
 Gayle Gorman, Education Scotland  
 Maria Walker, Education Scotland  
 Carol Copstick, Education Scotland  
 Andy Bruce, DD Learning Directorate  
 Clare Hicks, DD Learning Directorate  
 Mick Wilson, DD Learning Analysis  
 [redacted – exemption applies]  
 Kit Wyeth, Improvement Attainment and Wellbeing  
 David Leng, Improvement Attainment and Wellbeing  
 [redacted – exemption applies]  
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 [redacted – exemption applies]  
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 [redacted – exemption applies]  
 [redacted – exemption applies]  
 Colin McAllister, Special Adviser

**RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS**

**ANNEX A**

[redacted – exemption applies]

## **RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS**

### **ANNEX B**

#### **INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF P1 ASSESSMENTS**

##### **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL STANDARDISED ASSESSMENTS AT PRIMARY 1**

###### **Introduction**

1. The report of the Independent Review of the Scottish National Standardised Assessments at Primary 1 was led by Mr David Reedy.

2. In the spring and summer of 2018, a number of concerns were raised about the SNSA, particularly at Primary 1, for example around the impact of the assessments on children and young people and the value of the information they produce for teachers.

3. The concerns raised about the SNSA led to considerable Parliamentary discussion about them during autumn 2018. As part of this discussion, a debate took place in September 2018 at the end of which the Parliament voted in favour of a motion calling for an end to P1 SNSA and asking the Scottish Government to reconsider the evidence and the whole approach to evaluating the progress of children in P1. In order to address these concerns, the Scottish Government commissioned an independent review to be led by Mr Reedy, formerly Co-Director of the Cambridge Primary Review Trust, Past President of the United Kingdom Literacy Association and Principal Advisor for Primary Schools, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

4. The remit of the Independent Review was to consider and provide recommendations on the following issues:

- the compatibility of the assessments with the play-based approach to early level of CfE;
- the alignment of the assessments to the Benchmarks for early level;
- the effect of taking an on-line assessment on P1 children;
- the usefulness of the diagnostic information provided to teachers and how it supports their professional judgement;
- the implications of the Review for the ongoing development 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, whether they be substantially modified, or whether they should be stopped.

5. From January to March 2019, Mr Reedy visited schools to observe the SNSA being undertaken and to interview the staff involved. He interviewed headteachers, deposes and P1 teachers, key stakeholders, local authority staff and HMI, and looked at relevant documentation, for example the conclusions of the P1 Practitioner Forum and the evidence to and report from the Education and Skills Committee SNSA inquiry. In addition, Mr Reedy sought evidence through anonymous surveys completed by local authorities, headteachers and P1 teachers and a dedicated email address was established for general responses. During the course of the Review, other issues arose which were not specified in the remit of the

## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

Review: the purpose of the P1 SNSA; the use of the P1 SNSA data for school improvement purposes, and the challenges associated with implementation of the assessment. These are included in the Review report. In total, there were around 325 participants in the review including 142 P1 teachers and 131 headteachers.

6. These sources of evidence, scrutiny of relevant documentation and reviews of recent research into key themes, were used to gather evidence for the Independent Review.

7. Mr Reedy’s Report recommends that the P1 SNSA should continue, subject to a number of modifications and enhancements. The Report makes a number of recommendations for action, primarily for the Scottish Government, in order to deliver those modifications and enhancements.

8. This response should be considered alongside the Scottish Government’s response to two other significant reports which have been published recently:

- The P1 Practitioner Forum: Recommendations for Scottish National Standardised Assessments (18 April 2019) [insert link]; and
- The Scottish Parliament Education and Skills Committee Report on Scottish National Standardised Assessments [insert link] (23 April 2019)

9. The Scottish Government has also published a progress report from the 2018/19 SNSA User Review and a summary document “Standardised assessments in Scotland: priority improvement activity 2018/19” [insert link] which brings together the action that the Scottish Government (working with key partners as appropriate) will take forward during the 2019/20 school session.

### Independent Review of P1 assessments – main conclusions and recommendations

#### Purpose of P1 SNSA and its role within a broader assessment framework

*That Scottish Government:*

1.1 Provide a detailed rationale for P1 SNSA setting out the purposes and uses of P1 SNSA at individual, class, school, local authority and national levels. This should include a statement that the intention of P1 SNSA data is solely focused on informing learning and teaching and will not be used for accountability purposes now or in the future.

#### SG response

**Accept.** *The Scottish Government will work with Education ~~Scotland to provide schools, local authorities and other stakeholders to develop with a clear and definitive statement~~ on the purpose and use of P1 SNSA for the start of the new school session in August 2019.*

1.2 Work with local authorities, schools and other stakeholders to develop a practical framework/Code of Practice which sets out what SNSA data in P1 should productively be used for and what it should not, including a statement about purpose. This framework

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## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

should then be used as the basis for agreement in every school about the purposes and uses of P1 SNSA data. This should be publicised nationally and a copy sent to all schools and P1 teachers.

### SG response

**Accept.** *Scottish Government will produce a draft practical framework by autumn 2019, which will then be consulted upon widely, including through channels such as the P1 Practitioner Forum and the Scottish Education Council.*

*Clearly, in order for us to engage meaningfully with practitioners and wider stakeholders, it will not be possible to finalise this framework in time for the beginning of the 2019/20 school session. We believe, however, it will be possible to produce a final version of the framework by March 2020. The experience of the first two years of SNSA delivery suggests this will be in advance of the majority of the 2019/2020 assessments being carried out. In addition, as the framework will focus on the purpose and use of data generated by the SNSA, rather than the assessment content or experience itself, we do not believe its introduction at a mid-point in the delivery of year three of the SNSAs would materially affect or disadvantage those learners who have already undertaken the assessment. Consultation will, however, include the invitation of views on an appropriate timeline for final publication.*

1.3 In consultation with schools and local authorities, provide clear guidance, along the lines of the guidance offered about administering the P1 SNSA with ASN and EAL children, on the level of support which can be given to P1 children as they undertake the assessments.

### SG response

**Accept.** *Work on this recommendation will be taken forward over the summer and the guidance will be published in time for the start of the new school year in August 2019.*

1.4 Continue with the flexible arrangements about the timing of the P1 SNSA.

### SG response

**Accept.**

1.5 Refrain from drawing any general conclusions from aggregated P1 SNSA data until there is evidence of consistent administration. P1 SNSA data should not be used to make comparisons between schools or local authorities.

### SG response

**Partially accept.** *The Scottish Government will not use P1 SNSA data (or data from the assessments at P4, P7 and S3) to make comparisons between schools or local authorities. That has never been the policy intention of introducing national standardised assessments.*



## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

*Recognising that the SNSAs assess some aspects of the literacy and numeracy curriculum, however, we believe that national level SNSA information can provide a useful and reliable source to inform national policy making. As with individual level reporting, the SNSA can only ever provide indicative, rather than definitive information as regards progress in literacy and numeracy. It can, however, highlight patterns in relation to apparent strengths or curricular organisers in which learners are performing less well at group, school, local authority and national level. In line with the formative purpose of the SNSA, those patterns can then be explored further at the appropriate level, to inform support and improvement strategies moving forward.*

*The SNSAs are standardised in a number of important ways, to provide reliable, consistent and useful information. For example the SNSA uses a standard assessment platform so that children all do the assessments in the same format. Moreover we believe that the two extensive national norming exercises conducted in November 2017 and March 2018, provide statistically robust national frames of reference.*

**1.6** In consultation with local authorities, teachers and headteachers, agree how P1 SNSA data will inform Quality Assurance conversations within the context of all the other data pertaining to the performance of schools. This should be based on the practical framework/Code of Practice recommended in 1.2.

### **SG response**

**Accept.** *The SNSA, when used as part of a range of evidence, can support discussions around quality improvement within schools. This recommendation will be actioned as part of the development of the practical framework/code of practice highlighted at recommendation 1.2.*

*That local authorities:*

**1.7** In consultation with headteachers and teachers, agree how P1 SNSA data will inform Quality Assurance conversations within the context of all the other data pertaining to the performance of schools. This should be based on the practical framework/Code of Practice as recommended above to Scottish Government. P1 SNSA data should not be used to make comparisons between schools or local authorities.

**1.8** Refrain from drawing any general conclusions from aggregated P1 SNSA data until there is evidence of consistent administration.

### **SG response**

**Accept.** *The Scottish Government strongly supports the suggestion that quality assurance/school improvement discussions should take into account all performance data and assessment evidence available to schools, rather than focusing exclusively on the SNSA. That holistic approach lies at the heart of our assessment model for the broad general education.*

## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

~~Local authorities, who hold the statutory duty to improve the quality of education in their schools, will be supported to ensure that representatives will be involved in the consultation and wider development of the practical framework recommended at paragraph 1.2 of the Review. This involvement should assist local authorities in taking forward this recommendation.~~ The Scottish Government and Education Scotland will also seek to work with the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) in taking this activity forward

**Commented [WM(4):** I think this is much more strongly a role for schools and LAs, I would reword.

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The compatibility of the assessments with the play-based approach to early level of CfE

*That Scottish Government:*

2.1 In partnership with stakeholders, including teachers and headteachers, continue to develop guidance and examples of the ways in which a play-based approach to learning and teaching can accommodate administration of the P1 SNSA.

### SG response

**Accept.** This work is already underway in response to the recommendations of the P1 Practitioner Forum. This guidance will be published on the National Improvement Hub and the SNSA website by March 2020. Based on the experience of the first two years of SNSA delivery, this timing should ensure the guidance is available in advance of the majority of the 2019/2020 assessments being carried out.

2.2 In partnership with stakeholders, including schools, develop specific guidelines about how to use data from P1 SNSA alongside observational and other evidence from play-based activities to support judgements of progress and planning of next steps for learning within a play-based approach.

### SG response

**Accept.** Scottish Government and Education Scotland will work with stakeholders to develop case studies and guidance on using SNSA within a play based learning environment for improvement purposes. This support material will be published on the National Improvement Hub and the SNSA website by March 2020. Based on the experience of the first two years of SNSA delivery, this timing should ensure the guidance is available in advance of the majority of the 2019/2020 assessments being carried out.

2.3 Ensure that training in administering the SNSA and relevant documentation re-emphasises the option of stopping the assessment if a child becomes tired, bored or upset.

### SG response

**Accept.** Training and support documents will re-emphasise the ability to stop or break the assessments where it is in the interest of the child. This will also be illustrated in case studies, which will be published on the National Improvement Hub and SNSA website by March 2020. Based on the experience of the first two years of SNSA delivery, this timing should ensure the guidance is available in advance of the majority of the 2019/2020 assessments being carried out.

**Commented [WM(6):** We need to discuss this in more detail as I am sure we could look at this in a different way.

## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

### The usefulness of the diagnostic information provided to teachers to support professional judgements

*That Scottish Government:*

3.1 Request that, as part of its development process, ACER review the P1 literacy SNSA to ensure that the items align with the relevant parts of the early level CfE. Attention should be given to the language used in the item descriptors and in the data generated from the assessments so that they are comparable with the language used in the expectations and outcomes and associated Benchmarks for the early level of Curriculum for Excellence. In addition, ACER should involve experienced P1 practitioners in the question development process in order to give feedback on the appropriate level of difficulty, particularly in the P1 Literacy SNSA.

#### **SG response**

**Accept.** *Education Scotland has already begun discussions with ACER around the language used in item descriptors, with a view to aligning the language of the descriptors more closely with the language of Curriculum for Excellence. Education Scotland will continue the approach to reviewing the content of the P1 literacy assessments adopted to this point, whereby experienced classroom practitioners are involved in signing off each individual question for all assessment stages and curricular areas. Particular focus will be directed towards language, alignment with the early level benchmarks and levels of difficulty. Consideration will be given to how to involve practicing P1 classroom teachers in this review process.*

3.2 Recommend that one of the two additional in-service days agreed for 2019-2020 should be used so that all schools, including P1 teachers, can engage in professional learning related to how P1 SNSA information can be used effectively to inform professional judgements and/or moderation activities.

#### **SG response**

**Partially accept.** *Whilst the content of these additional in-service days should be determined between the professional associations and employers, the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers has agreed they should support professional learning focusing on key issues such as workload, additional support for learning and empowering schools. There is an expectation that decisions on the content of these in-service days should involve the [redacted – exemption applies] opportunities for collaborative practice across local authorities. The Scottish Government can emphasise to local authorities, however, the importance of professional learning in maximizing the value of the SNSA.*

3.3 In consultation with local authorities and schools, review the current materials available to ensure that there is easily accessible professional learning support available for schools to use on the dedicated in-service day and publicise these materials to schools.

## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

### SG response

**Accept.** Improved signposting to the relevant sections of the training and support materials has already been undertaken in response to the P1 Practitioner Forum recommendation, and training materials have been made available on GLOW.

3.4 Expand the QAMSO programme to support local authorities and school clusters in developing cross school moderation events.

### SG response

**Accept.** Education Scotland is in the process of developing a ~~revised~~ ~~expanded~~ QAMSO programme which takes account of the change in the system to support moderation at different levels in the system and will expand its support to include support at a regional level and continue at a national level. The moderation hub will be updated providing continued support to schools and clusters. We will continue to support local authorities through assessment coordinators and Education Scotland staff, providing advice and guidance on quality assurance and moderation.

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### The use of the P1 SNSA data for school improvement purposes

That Scottish Government:

4.1 Work in partnership with local authorities and schools to produce guidance outlining how P1 SNSA can positively contribute to school improvement including further detailed case studies showing how a range of both urban and rural schools have used P1 SNSA for improvement purposes. This guidance should be accessible online.

### SG response

**Accept.** Scottish Government and Education Scotland will continue to work with local authorities and schools to develop case studies and practical guidance on using the SNSA for improvement purposes. These will be made available on the National Improvement Hub by March 2020.

4.2 Expand the frequency of professional learning opportunities/training in all local authorities, including face-to-face discussions, which focuses on both the positive use, as well as the limitations, of using P1 SNSA information. This should particularly target senior leaders in schools.

### SG response

**Accept.** Scottish Government and ACER will work with local authorities to develop the range and frequency of training programmes. While it is a matter for local authorities to indicate to ACER their needs and preferences as regards the delivery of SNSA training, the Scottish Government and ACER will continue to encourage wide uptake, highlighting to practitioners the Review findings regarding the benefits of training in terms of a heightened understanding of the value of the diagnostic information generated by the system.

## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

*That local authorities:*

4.3 Expand the frequency of professional learning opportunities already planned, including cluster meetings. Develop bespoke training for P1 teachers and monitor attendance.

### **SG response**

**Accept.** *As indicated in response to recommendation 4.2, the Scottish Government and ACER will work with local authorities to develop the range and frequency of training programmes.*

### The challenges of using the P1 SNSA

*That Scottish Government:*

5.1 Continue and extend support to schools for administering the P1 SNSA in terms of resource; this might include recommending that priority time should be given within the Collegiate Hours Agreement in schools so that there is planned time to administer P1 SNSA.

### **SG response**

**Partially accept.** *Working Time Agreements are developed and agreed at a school level, in advance of each academic session and are a matter for the Local Negotiating Committees for Teachers (LNCT). The Scottish Government can re-emphasize the importance of allowing time for the effective delivery of P1 SNSAs as long as it's undertaken during the collegiate activities within the 35 hour working week.*

5.2 In consultation with local authorities and schools, develop more guidance for primary schools, particularly larger schools, in managing the technological demands of the P1 SNSA.

### **SG response**

**Accept.** *As indicated in the response to 2.2 and 4.1, Scottish Government and Education Scotland will continue to work with local authorities and schools to develop case studies and practical guidance on using the SNSA. This will include how to manage the technological demands of P1 SNSA. These will be made available on the National Improvement Hub by March 2020.*

5.3 Recommend that, as part of its ongoing review process, ACER reduce the number of items in the P1 literacy SNSA.

### **SG response**

**Partially accept.** *As outlined in response to recommendation 3.1, Education Scotland will continue to review all content for the P1 literacy assessments with ACER. They will consider the implications of reducing the number of items and the impact this may have on assessment duration and coverage, giving particular consideration to the extent to which coverage can be reduced, while still enabling the generation of meaningful diagnostic information.*

*The Scottish Government would note that any changes to the number of items included within an assessment will need to be made at the beginning of a school session, to ensure a consistent assessment experience for all children and young people, no matter when within the school year they undertake the assessment. Consideration of the potential for reducing the number*

## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

*of questions within the P1 literacy assessment is a complex matter, which, if it is to be undertaken meaningfully, may extend beyond August 2019. If that is the case, we would seek to implement any reduction in items for the 2020/21 school session.*

5.4 Extend the work of QAMSOs and moderation processes specifically to include special schools and those teachers with responsibility for children with additional support needs and English as an additional language.

### **SG response**

**Accept.** *Local authorities nominate the staff to take part in the QAMSO programme. The QAMSO programme has always been open to staff in special schools. Education Scotland will continue to work with local authority assessment coordinators to ensure an appropriate range of staff have access to this support.*

5.5 Continue to develop the productive partnership between home and school, including parents/carers in professional conversations about children's progress.

### **SG response**

**Accept.** *The Scottish Government welcomes this recommendation which is pertinent to our "Learning Together" National Action Plan on parental involvement and engagement, our NIF Parental Communication Plan (which emphasises good quality dialogue between parents, teachers and headteachers) and the National Improvement Framework for education.*

*Our Learning Together plan recommends that schools and authorities take steps to i) support parents to be active participants in the assessment and reporting process, ii) provide advice to parents to help talk to their child about their learning and next steps and iii) ensure that communication and reporting to parents is simple, quick and responsive to parents' needs. At national level, Education Scotland will continue to promote and share their guidance on reporting to parents which is provided as part of their Parental Engagement Toolkit for schools. We will continue to emphasise certain key principles including the importance of dialogue and face-to-face discussions and the development of reports which are meaningful to parents and designed around parents' needs and the needs of the individual child.*

*That local authorities:*

5.6 Extend support and consultation with schools experiencing difficulties in managing the technology and timing of administering the P1 SNSA.

### **SG response**

**Partially accept.** *The flexibility which SNSA offers in terms of timing of assessment goes some way towards relieving pressure on the availability of equipment. We will provide local authorities with detailed learner feedback data in July. Any data suggesting the quality of technology may have impacted upon learners' experiences can be used by local authorities to inform targeted interventions. We have agreed with COSLA and ADES that we will factor questions relating to ICT into a forthcoming survey of local authorities. The survey is specifically about use of technology to support education and will be structured around the four objectives in our Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy. We expect to have the findings from the survey in late 2019.*

## RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS

### The national Gaelic Medium Education Standardised Assessment (MCNG)

*That Scottish Government:*

6.1 Working with local authorities and schools, proceed with the implementation of the national Gaelic Medium Education Standardised Assessment.

#### **SG response**

**Accept.** *The Gaelic medium standardised assessments were made available in December 2018 and many schools have now carried out assessments. The Scottish Government will continue to work with partners to enhance these assessments in time for the 2019/2020 school session and beyond.*

### The future of the P1 SNSA

*That Scottish Government:*

7.1 Retain the P1 SNSA to inform professional judgements about learning and teaching but address the recommendations identified in this Review, particularly in respect of the P1 literacy SNSA.

#### **SG response**

**Accept.** *The Scottish Government welcomes the review's conclusion that P1 SNSA should be continued and is committed to ensuring that, when used as part of the full range of assessment evidence available to teachers, the assessments play a valuable part in informing professional judgements about learning and teaching. The rest of this response sets out how the Scottish Government will take forward, with partners, the recommendations in the Review.*

7.2 Ensure that the purpose for collecting P1 SNSA data at national and local authority level is made clear in Government documentation and clarify how the P1 SNSA will contribute to narrowing the poverty related attainment gap. (See also Recommendation 1.1)

#### **SG response**

**Accept.** *As set out in the response to recommendation 1.1, the Scottish Government will develop and publish guidance on the purpose and use of P1 SNSA. We will ensure that such guidance makes explicit the link to narrowing the poverty related attainment gap and the improvement agenda more widely. It should be noted that there is no national collection of SNSA data.*

7.3 Retain the P1 Practitioner Forum to offer advice and support to teachers, schools, local authorities, Scottish Government and Education Scotland.

#### **SG response**

**Accept.** *The Scottish Government welcomes the work and recommendations of the Forum and plans to retain it for the 2019/2020 school session. The remit and membership of the Forum will be extended to include practitioners working with the Gaelic medium assessments.*

**RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS**

**ANNEX C**

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**RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS**

**ANNEX D**

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**RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS**

**ANNEX E**

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**RESTRICTED – ADVICE TO MINISTERS**

**ANNEX F**

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