

Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit  
airson Foghlam agus Sgilean

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

Cllr. Donald Manford  
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Our Reference: 202000116821

Your Reference: Barra and Vatersay Community Campus

18 December 2020

Dear Donald,

Thank you for your letter and email of 12 November 2020 regarding the Barra and Vatersay Community Campus project.

I thoroughly appreciate your continued support and the comprehensive update on the project. I would also like to commend yourself and others at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) for the work on this project during these incredibly difficult times.

This project was considered to be innovative in the way that it aims to deliver on the principles of the Learning Estate Strategy and I was delighted to announce, in September 2019, that it would form part of the first phase of school projects to benefit from the new £1 billion Learning Estate Investment Programme

I know that NHS Western Isles have been working on plans to replace the existing St. Brendan's Hospital on Barra for a number of years, and last year it was decided to investigate the possibility of a collaborative approach. The current plan presents an energetic and ambitious intent, set against the backdrop of island life and its importance as part of Scottish heritage and culture. By focusing on a reduced estate, with greater flexibility and utility, the viability of that estate becomes potentially greater. In addition, the project is anchored in Scottish Government placed based investment policy and aligns with the Infrastructure Commission.

I remain very supportive of this project and have asked my officials to continue to work closely with the CnES and other partners to ensure the successful delivery of this project.

As ever, I send you my warmest wishes and would be grateful if you would also pass on my kindest regards to (Redacted) at what I appreciate will be a difficult time for them. I hope to be able to see you in Barra soon.

Yours sincerely,

**JOHN SWINNEY**

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)  
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