

FOI 202500464266 “Could you provide all documentation held about education portfolio questions on Thursday April 24, including correspondence sent and received (including internal), minutes/notes from meetings, briefings, analysis, from the last month?”

This FOI covers the 8 Parliamentary Questions for that day.

The 8 Parliamentary Questions and answers can be found on the [Scottish Parliament website](#).

Annex A

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a) **On Behalf Of** PQ/FMQ Team

Sent: 16 April 2025 17:00

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Cc: PQ/FMQ Team <pq/fmqteam@gov.scot>

Subject: Oral PQ - S6O-04568 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Dear Colleagues

Oral Parliamentary Question(s)

Please see the below Oral PQ(s) which we feel may best sit with your area. Grateful if you can confirm who we should allocate to on the PQ Tracker.

- 1. Sandesh Gulhane:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what support is available to teachers who experience physical violence or verbal abuse in schools. ([S6O-04568](#))

PQ deadline is – 12 Noon Tuesday

Kind regards

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

PQ/FMQ Officer

Central Correspondence Unit

Email: PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot

Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)



Annex B

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 16 April 2025 17:34

To: PQ/FMQ Team <pq/fmqteam@gov.scot>; Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04568 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi

This should sit with workforce – Redacted under 38(1)(a) is it one for you?

Thanks

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex C

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a) **On Behalf Of** PQ/FMQ Team
Sent: 17 April 2025 09:36
To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04568 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday
Importance: High

Good morning

Hope you are well.

Please can you let us have an update for the below Oral PQ awaiting allocation on the tracker.

Kind regards
Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a) PQ & FMQ Performance Manager
Central Correspondence Unit
Email: pq/fmqteam@gov.scot
Improving Public Engagement Unit (IPED)



Annex D

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Sent: 17 April 2025 10:38
To: PQ/FMQ Team <pq/fmqteam@gov.scot>; Redacted under 38(1)(a) Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04568 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Can you please allocate S6O-04568 to me?

Thank you,

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Teacher Pay, Conditions and Stakeholder Engagement Team

Education Workforce Unit | Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division |
Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh

Tell: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex E

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 17 April 2025 15:17

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04568 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 30(b)(ii) Redacted under 38(1)(a),ASAP.

Redacted under 30(b)(ii)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

S6O-04568 – Sandesh Gulhane

Q. To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what support is available to teachers who experience physical violence or verbal abuse in schools.

Proposed answer:

Redacted under 30(b)(ii)

Background note

- Sandesh Gulhane is the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party MSP for the Glasgow (Region)
- As the employers of teachers Local Authorities have a legal responsibility to protect their employees from violence and abuse at work and to provide appropriate support when incidents do occur.

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Teacher Pay, Conditions and Stakeholder Engagement Team

Education Workforce Unit | Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division |

Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh
Tell: Redacted under 38(1)(a)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Civil Service
Dyslexia & Dyspraxia
Network
#IAMDYSLEXIC

Annex F

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Sent: 17 April 2025 15:22
To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04568 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Thank you for picking this up. Please see the following PQ Redacted under 30(b)(ii):
[S6O-04496 - Sandesh Gulhane - Self Defence classes details - Objective](#)

I've made a small tweak to the answer below. Otherwise content.

Thanks
Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex G

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Sent: 17 April 2025 16:37
To: Orlando Mason <Orlando.Mason@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: PQ for review S6O-04568 – Sandesh Gulhane

Hi Orlando

As discussed, I'm attaching an Oral PQ for you to review.

It is due next Tuesday at 12.

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a) (He/Him)
Teacher Pay, Conditions and Stakeholder Engagement Team
Education Workforce Unit | Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division |
Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh

Tell: Redacted under 38(1)(a)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Civil Service
Dyslexia & Dyspraxia
Network
#IAMDYSLEXIC

Annex H

From: Orlando Mason <Orlando.Mason@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 April 2025 17:02
To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: RE: PQ for review S6O-04568 – Sandesh Gulhane

Thanks, Redacted under 38(1)(a), that looks good!

Redacted under 30(b)(ii)

Orlando

“The Scottish Government is clear that physical violence and verbal abuse directed towards teachers is unacceptable. That is why, last year, we published our relationships and behaviour action plan which contains a number of actions to reduce violence and disruptive behaviour in schools.

Local Authorities, as the employers of teachers, are responsible for providing support which meets their employee’s needs, when physical violence or verbal abuse does occur. **The support available to individual teachers will therefore depend on that local provision.**

However, since October 2020, the Scottish Government have also invested more than £2 million in national support for our education workforce, including providing free wellbeing coaching for education staff and funding the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland to consider how best practice and resources can be shared across Local Authorities.

Annex I

S6O-04568 – Sandesh Gulhane

Q. To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what support is available to teachers who experience physical violence or verbal abuse in schools.

A.

The Scottish Government is clear that physical violence and verbal abuse directed towards teachers is unacceptable. That is why, last year, we published our relationships and behaviour action plan which contains a number of actions to reduce violence and disruptive behaviour in schools.

Local Authorities, as the employers of teachers, are responsible for providing support which meets their employee's needs, when physical violence or verbal abuse does occur.

However, since October 2020, the Scottish Government have also invested more than £2 million in national support for our education workforce, including providing free wellbeing coaching for education staff and funding the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland to consider how best practice and resources can be shared across Local Authorities.

Background note

- Sandesh Gulhane is the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party MSP for the Glasgow (Region)
- As the employers of teachers Local Authorities have a legal responsibility to protect their employees from violence and abuse at work and to provide appropriate support when incidents do occur.

Redacted Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views

Redacted under Section 30(c) – Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs

Annex J

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a) **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: 23 April 2025 17:37

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a) Orlando Mason <Orlando.Mason@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>; Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: Supp for Portfolio Question - S6O-04568 - Q1 - 24042025

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Many thanks

Kind regards

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a) | **Private Secretary | Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans.**

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments. Ms Gilruth's Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#). Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Annex K

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a) **Sent:** 24 April 2025 09:55

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: FW: Supp for Portfolio Question - S6O-04568 - Q1 - 24042025

Hi Both

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a) (He/Him)

Teacher Pay, Conditions and Stakeholder Engagement Team

Education Workforce Unit | Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division |

Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh

Tell: Redacted under 38(1)(a)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Civil Service
Dyslexia & Dyspraxia
Network

Annex L

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 09:58

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp for Portfolio Question - S6O-04568 - Q1 - 24042025

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a) and I are both going into a working group meeting. I've copied Redacted under 38(1)(a) in who can give lines on GBV – Redacted under 38(1)(a) would you also be able to include lines about developed action plan (owned Jointly with COSLA and developed with partners in SAGRABIS). Progress report published at end of March sttig out action taken to support positive relationships and behaviour. Then talk about GBV guidance please?

Thanks

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex M

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 09:59

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp for Portfolio Question - S6O-04568 - Q1 - 24042025

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a), I'll pick this up and get back to you ASAP

Annex N

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a) **Sent:** 24 April 2025 10:33

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp for Portfolio Question - S6O-04568 - Q1 - 24042025

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Background

Relationships and Behaviour in Schools Action Plan

The first progress report for our relationships and behaviour in schools action plan was published on 28th March.

- Between November 2023 and March 2025, we have made good progress against all 20 actions set out within the plan. For example:
 - We have published new guidance on addressing gender-based violence in schools, updated guidance on mobile phones, and updated anti-bullying guidance.
 - There is **enhanced evidence gathering** on relationships and behaviour as part of the school inspection process, through discussions, observations, focus groups, and documentation reviews. At the end of the inspection, feedback highlights key strengths and areas for improvement, supporting the school to reflect on and enhance its approaches to promoting positive relationships and managing behaviour.
 - Professional learning is available to staff and schools on relationships and behaviour in schools.

This is a 3-year plan, informed by evidence and agreed by the Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools, which includes representatives of COSLA, Education Scotland, EIS, NASUWT, the Scottish Secondary Teachers Association, parents' representatives and others.

- Our next steps are to publish guidance on consequences and risk assessments. This is scheduled for Summer.

Gender-based violence

We published a national framework for schools to help tackle sexual harassment and gender-based violence in March 2024.

- Misogynistic behaviour has been identified as an emerging concern within schools. The publication of this framework demonstrates our commitment to take swift action to respond to the current concerns and ensure pupils and staff are properly supported.
- It does this through providing guidance on how schools can address the underlying causes of gender-based violence, particularly gender inequality, and ensuring appropriate action is taken in response to specific incidents.
- The framework includes guidance in responding to incidents experienced by pupils and also staff.
- The framework is clear about the need to challenge all forms of inappropriate behaviour when it occurs.
- We will commission an independent review to establish positive practice and further areas for improvement, before the end of this parliamentary session.

Annex O

Hi **Redacted under 38(1)(a)**

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Teacher Pay, Conditions and Stakeholder Engagement Team

Education Workforce Unit | Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division |

Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh

Tell: Redacted under 38(1)(a)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Civil Service
Dyslexia & Dyspraxia
Network
#IAMDYSLEXIC

Annex P

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 10:59

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Cc: Orlando Mason <Orlando.Mason@gov.scot>; Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

<MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Supp for Portfolio Question - S6O-04568 - Q1 - 24042025

Change in red please

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Answer:

Our joint National Behaviour Action Plan is a 3-year plan, informed by evidence and agreed by the Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools, which includes representatives of COSLA.

The first progress report was published on 28th March. We have made good progress against all 20 actions in the plan, including publishing updated anti-bullying guidance and updated guidance on mobile phones. We also published a national framework for schools to help tackle gender-based violence in March 2024.

Our next steps are to publish guidance on consequences and risk assessments. This is scheduled for summer. **The Cabinet Secretary is also shortly due to make a**

statement on this in May which will provide for an opportunity for Members to ask further questions on the progress to date.

Annex Q

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 11:03

To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans
<MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Cc: Orlando Mason <Orlando.Mason@gov.scot>; Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp for Portfolio Question - S6O-04568 - Q1 - 24042025

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Teacher Pay, Conditions and Stakeholder Engagement Team

Education Workforce Unit | Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division |
Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh

Tell: Redacted under 38(1)(a)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Civil Service
Dyslexia & Dyspraxia
Network
#IAM

(S6O-04569) Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures.

AND

(S6O-04571) Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday.

Information to be released:

EMAIL THREAD 1

From: Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Sent:** 23 April 2025 10:13 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Kate Smith <Kate.Smith@gov.scot>; **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** FW: FMQ Brief Commission Request - Education - Due 10 am Tuesday 22nd April

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Cheers,

Eleanor

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 22 April 2025 15:06

To: PQ/FMQ Team [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] First Minister FMQs [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Cc: Director for Children and Families; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; Kate Smith <Kate.Smith@gov.scot>; [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] ELC Programme [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Subject: RE: FMQ Brief Commission Request - Education - Due 10 am Tuesday 22nd April

Hi – please see childcare brief attached.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] – we’re working in parallel on an Oral PQ on this

Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S6O-04569)**

Thanks

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Policy and Briefing Manager

Strategy Team | Early Learning & Childcare Division | Directorate for Children & Families | Scottish Government

EMAIL THREAD 2

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:25 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Subject:** FW: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

[Redacted Section 29(1)(d) – Ministerial private office]

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:17 **To:** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Cc: Eleanor Passmore [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Good morning PO,

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office
Redacted Section 30

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

On Behalf Of Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 23 April 2025 17:27 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] and team

Thanks again, really appreciated as always!. Please see below **Redacted section 30**

2. Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. (S6O-04569)

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

4. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday. (S6O-04571)

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data], as noted on Teams please let me know once you have some further guidance/a response from CS and **[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]**

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise – Natalie Don-Innes MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Sent: 23 April 2025 15:58 **To:** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>;

Cc: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data];** Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Afternoon **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**,

Apologies I think we decided to remove that Annex as the advice was from 2024 but I have attached the information it contained just for reference.

Thank you for the update, please let us know should Ms. Don-Innes require any further information.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] On Behalf Of Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 23 April 2025 15:41 **To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot** **Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot** **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi Team

Thanks again for the responses and further info.

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise – Natalie Don-Innes MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 23 April 2025 15:30 **To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children, Young People and

The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data];** Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject: RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note**

Hi PO team.

The FMQ is attached here for Ms Don-Innes' information.

Thanks

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Policy and Briefing Manager

Strategy Team | Early Learning & Childcare Division | Directorate for Children & Families | Scottish Government

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 23 April 2025 13:11 To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note**

Good afternoon PO,

With apologies for overrunning your deadline, the two oral PQs above have now been uploaded onto the PQ tracker.

Also to note, and with the interest of keeping rather large background notes down as much as possible we have some general background information in Annex B of S6O-04569 which may be relevant to both PQs.

I hope this makes sense but happy to chat if needed.

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

EMAIL THREAD 3

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 24 April 2025 14:02 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b)**

personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

In his answer FM also emphasised that the 1140 expansion aims to ensure the best possible start and a natural progression into school. He reflected that Ms Grahame's point about structures is also about curriculum - in many schools there is a continuation of the play-based curriculum in P1 and sometimes P2, which is the foundation of children's early learning and childcare experience.

I hope that's helpful,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 24 April 2025 13:52 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**,

The supplementary I provided matches FM's initial response to Ms Grahame. I am just listening back again to the supplementary in case there are other helpful points that could be added.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 24 April 2025 13:35 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b)**

personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

Just to clarify have these been compared to what FM said in chamber?

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 24 April 2025 13:08 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**,

Apologies – too many moving parts this week across FMQs and orals.

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Sent: 24 April 2025 12:40 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 24 April 2025 12:26 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> Subject: RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Would that work for Ms Don-Innes?

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] On Behalf Of Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise Sent: 24 April 2025 12:14 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> Subject: RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 24 April 2025 11:45 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> Subject: RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** and **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**,

Thanks for the feedback – revised version in the attached. Does this work better?

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] On Behalf Of Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise Sent: 24 April 2025 11:32 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal

data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** & Team

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Can you update/revise please?

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:17 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data];** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data];** Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Good morning PO,

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Please note that there is also an additional supp regarding Renfrewshire Council's upcoming vote to reverse the start date change included in the attached, the answer for which has been cleared by Cab Sec.

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 23 April 2025 17:27 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] and team

Thanks again, really appreciated as always!. Please see below for a couple of known supps that will require a response. Could we please have a draft response by 12:00 tomorrow?

2. Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. (S6O-04569)

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

4. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday. (S6O-04571)

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data], [Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise – Natalie Don-Innes MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 23 April 2025 15:58 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Afternoon [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

Apologies I think we decided to remove that Annex as the advice was from 2024 but I have attached the information it contained just for reference.

Thank you for the update, please let us know should Ms. Don-Innes require any further information.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 23 April 2025 15:41 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi Team

Thanks again for the responses and further info.

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 23 April 2025 15:30 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> Subject: RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi PO team.

The FMQ is attached here for Ms Don-Innes' information.

Thanks

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Policy and Briefing Manager

Strategy Team | Early Learning & Childcare Division | Directorate for Children & Families | Scottish Government

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 23 April 2025 13:11 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> Subject: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Good afternoon PO,

With apologies for overrunning your deadline, the two oral PQs above have now been uploaded onto the PQ tracker. Just a note that the current FMQ is still under review and will follow, so there is no current FMQ at the bottom of both background notes.

EMAIL THREAD 4

From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot> **Sent:** 17 April 2025 11:14 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** PQ Reference: S6O-04569

A PQ, reference S6O-04569 has been allocated to you as lead action officer. This PQ may be reached by clicking on the link below.

Your PQ Tracker Home Page is at:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/drafting/answer>

- MSP: Alexander Burnett
- Due at MPO: 22/04/2025
- Question Text: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures.

Allocation notes: Please find attached Oral PQ due 12 Noon Tuesday On receipt of this message, can you please ensure The Private Office and Minister drop down fields are complete. The answer must be cleared by your C band or DD before being sent to PO. Please be aware when answering a PQ, you should send the answer to PO using the "Private Office for approval" option. If the PQ is not for you it is important you let us know asap so we can re-allocate. I have copied in your Line manager for awareness and would appreciate their support in ensuring this happens. **Please note that the PQ/FMQ Team do NOT receive any notification if a PQ is rejected on the tracker. If you have a PQ requiring reallocation, you MUST email PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot to advise and request this.**

The user guidance for the PQ Tracker system may be found here:-

<https://scotsconnect.sharepoint.com/sites/WhoWeAre/SitePages/answering-parliamentary-questions.aspx>

EMAIL THREAD 5

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 17 April 2025 11:09 **To:** PQ/FMQ Team [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Morning

Please assign to [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data], who will co-ordinate input.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

1140 and Childminding Policy

ELC: Sector Sustainability, 1140 & Childminding

Directorate for Children and Families

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is flexible, usually M-F 10am-6pm

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **On Behalf Of** PQ/FMQ Team
Sent: 17 April 2025 09:38 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Cc:**
PQ/FMQ Team **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children,
Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs
- S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday **Importance:** High

Good morning

Hope you are well.

Please can you advise who we should allocate the below Oral PQs to on the tracker.

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

PQ & FMQ Performance Manager

Central Correspondence Unit

Email: pq/fmqteam@gov.scot

Improving Public Engagement Unit (IPED)

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 16 April 2025 18:28 **To:**
[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b)**
personal data]

Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **[redacted Section 38(1)(b)**
personal data] **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon
Tuesday

Hi

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] and I will discuss allocation tomorrow morning.

Noting Easter weekend and current leave, Private Office have kindly agreed a Wednesday deadline with me (as early as possible, but 12.30 at the absolute latest. We will need to ensure swift availability for any feedback from Minister.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

1140 and Childminding Policy

ELC: Sector Sustainability, 1140 & Childminding

Directorate for Children and Families

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is flexible, usually M-F 10am-6pm

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 16 April 2025 17:05 **To:** PQ/FMQ Team [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Good afternoon – I am looping in [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] to this request.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** PQ/FMQ Team **Sent:** 16 April 2025 17:02 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** PQ/FMQ Team [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Dear Colleagues

Oral Parliamentary Question(s)

Please see the below Oral PQ(s) which we feel may best sit with your area. Grateful if you can confirm who we should allocate to on the PQ Tracker.

2. Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S6O-04569)**

4. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday. **(S6O-04571)**

PQ deadline is – 12 Noon Tuesday

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PQ/FMQ TEAM DO NOT SET DEADLINES AND IF AN EXTENSION IS REQUIRED THIS SHOULD BE REQUESTED DIRECTLY FROM MINISTERIAL PRIVATE OFFICE. THANK YOU.

In the event that your policy area are unable to action, we would request that you widen the copy list to include colleagues who may be better

placed to lead. This should help avoid unnecessary email traffic whilst maintaining an audit trail for the PQ/FMQ Team purposes.

****Please note that the PQ/FMQ Team do NOT receive any notification if a PQ is rejected on the tracker. If you have a PQ requiring reallocation, you MUST email PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot to advise and request this.****

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

PQ/FMQ Officer

Central Correspondence Unit

Email: PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot

Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

EMAIL THREAD 6

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 22 April 2025 10:07 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Subject: PQ Answers

Alexander Burnett, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party MSP for Aberdeenshire West: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures.

S6O-04569

Natalie Don-Innes:

Access to high quality, accessible and affordable early learning and childcare is vital for rural communities.

Which is why we fund local authorities to deliver 1140 hours of ELC to all eligible children, backed by around £1 billion funding each year, and have done since 2021.

Councils are responsible for ensuring that local provision meets families' needs, and for decisions relating to their ELC estate.

In addition, the Scottish Government is supporting projects to improve childcare provision in rural communities through the Addressing Depopulation Action Plan, our Early Adopter Communities and the Programme for Scotland's Childminding Future.

Neil Bibby, Scottish Labour MSP for West Scotland: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday.

S6O-04571

Natalie Don-Innes:

The Scottish Government does not collect ELC data specific to children who are exactly 3 years and 1 week old.

According to the latest ELC census, uptake of funded ELC for 3 and 4 year olds remains near-universal - an estimated 95% of eligible children.

Keeping children in Scotland out of poverty is the First Minister's top priority.

Ministers have made tough decisions to prioritise investment of almost £1 billion a year delivering a universal offer, which is available regardless of whether parents are working or not - putting children's interests first.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] [Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

EMAIL THREAD 7

From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot> **Sent:** 24 April 2025 14:54 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Subject:** ORAL PQ Answers

Please find attached, the answers to the ORAL PQs processed on 24/04/2025:-
S6O-04569

EMAIL THREAD 9

From: Eleanor Passmore Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot **Sent:** 22 April 2025 13:58
To: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Cc:** Kate Smith <Kate.Smith@gov.scot>; **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Subject:** RE: FMQ for review

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**

Happy to clear, thanks very much.

Cheers

Eleanor

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 22 April 2025 11:53 **To:** Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Cc:** **Kate Smith** <Kate.Smith@gov.scot>; **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Subject:** FMQ for review

Hi Eleanor

Grateful if you could review the FMQ.

Early Learning and Childcare - FMQ - 20250424 - 24 April 2025 details - Objective

To note for info in relation to the closures/mothballing lines, there's also an Oral PQ at portfolio Qs on Thursday afternoon.

Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S6O-04569)**

hanks

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Policy and Briefing Manager

Strategy Team | Early Learning & Childcare Division | Directorate for Children & Families | Scottish Government

EMAIL THREAD 10

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 09:40 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** RE: For urgent action by 11.30 Thurs please

Morning all

No concerns from my perspective on the childminding lines. As you note, [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data], this will confirm year 2 funding ahead of the launch, however the participating LAs have been made aware that the funding is confirmed already anyway.

Thanks

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 09:36 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** RE: For urgent action by 11.30 Thurs please

Morning all

Thanks for drafting this [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] and I reviewed the EAC supp Q and all looks good.

Thanks

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Sent: 24 April 2025 08:32 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore

<Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** RE: For urgent action by 11.30 Thurs please

Morning All,

Please see the below link for **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** drafts.

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

24 April supplementary questions (A52690022)

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 23 April 2025 20:27 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** For urgent action by 11.30 Thurs please

Hello all,

Apologies for emailing late – seeking to get ahead of another very tight deadline of midday Thursday. Oral PQ deadlines have been compressed this week with the Monday holiday.

I'd be really grateful if:

- **EAC colleagues** can check and improve the Neil Bibby supplementary;
- **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** can review the childminding aspects of the Alexander Burnett answer and flag any concerns (I'm conscious Ms Don-Innes would be confirming the year 2 funding ahead of the SCMA's launch on 1 May, which would actually save us a job of informing Parliament alongside the launch); and
- **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** can share the Alexander Burnett answer with rural policy colleagues separately to check they're comfortable.

Redacted section 30

Please can everyone work to **11.30 at the latest** so that we can get a consolidated response to PO?

Many thanks in advance,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Sent:** 23 April 2025 17:31

To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Looping in [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] also on the EAC follow up in red below.

Thanks,

Eleanor

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 23 April 2025 17:27 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] and team

Thanks again, really appreciated as always!. Please see below for a couple of known supps that will require a response. Could we please have a draft response by 12:00 tomorrow?

2. Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S6O-04569)**

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

4. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday. **(S6O-04571)**

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data], as noted on Teams please let me know once you have some further guidance/a response from CS and **[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]**

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise – Natalie Don-Innes MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

EMAIL THREAD 11

Hi PQ Team!

Hope you had a good Easter.

From SpAds:

To flag for Ms D-I's questions on nurseries officials should make sure these stories are covered please:

For Alexander Burnett- Scottish nursery parents fear extra £2,000 childcare bill after closure announcement (specifically the mothballing of Borders nurseries as he mentioned this in another article)

For Neil Bibby- Mum facing '£4,000 nursery bill' after council policy change | STV News

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 17 April 2025 11:27 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot** **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**

Subject: RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**

One for both would be sufficient as long as it covers the relevant issues. Just make that obvious on the system though so I don't forget thanks!

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 17 April 2025 11:25 **To:** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Good morning PO,

Can I please check if it would be your preference for one background note to cover both these Oral PQs or if you would prefer separate ones? The content for both will overlap quite a lot so I just wanted to confirm.

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** PQ/FMQ Team
Sent: 17 April 2025 11:07 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** PQ/FMQ Team [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young

People and The Promise MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday **Importance:** High

Good morning,

Apologies for the chase, but would appreciate an update on allocation of these Oral PQs please?

Kind regards [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

PQ/FMQ Officer

Central Correspondence Unit

Email: PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot

Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** PQ/FMQ Team
Sent: 17 April 2025 09:38 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** PQ/FMQ Team [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children,

Young People and The Promise MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday **Importance:** High

Good morning

Hope you are well.

Please can you advise who we should allocate the below Oral PQs to on the tracker.

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

PQ & FMQ Performance Manager

Central Correspondence Unit

Email: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**

Improving Public Engagement Unit (IPED)

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 16 April 2025 18:28 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] and I will discuss allocation tomorrow morning.

Noting Easter weekend and current leave, Private Office have kindly agreed a Wednesday deadline with me (as early as possible, but 12.30 at the absolute latest. We will need to ensure swift availability for any feedback from Minister.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

1140 and Childminding Policy

ELC: Sector Sustainability, 1140 & Childminding

Directorate for Children and Families

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is flexible, usually M-F 10am-6pm

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 16 April 2025 17:05 **To:** PQ/FMQ Team **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Cc:** **[redacted Section**

38(1)(b) personal data] Subject: RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Good afternoon – I am looping in **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** to this request.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] On Behalf Of** PQ/FMQ Team
Sent: 16 April 2025 17:02 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Cc:** PQ/FMQ Team **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Subject:** Oral PQs - S6O-04569 & S6O-04571 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Dear Colleagues

Oral Parliamentary Question(s)

Please see the below Oral PQ(s) which we feel may best sit with your area. Grateful if you can confirm who we should allocate to on the PQ Tracker.

2. Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S6O-04569)**

4. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday. **(S6O-04571)**

PQ deadline is – 12 Noon Tuesday

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PQ/FMQ TEAM DO NOT SET DEADLINES AND IF AN EXTENSION IS REQUIRED THIS SHOULD BE REQUESTED DIRECTLY FROM MINISTERIAL PRIVATE OFFICE. THANK YOU.

In the event that your policy area are unable to action, we would request that you widen the copy list to include colleagues who may be better placed to lead. This should help avoid unnecessary email traffic whilst maintaining an audit trail for the PQ/FMQ Team purposes.

****Please note that the PQ/FMQ Team do NOT receive any notification if a PQ is rejected on the tracker. If you have a PQ requiring reallocation, you MUST email PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot to advise and request this.****

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

PQ/FMQ Officer

Central Correspondence Unit

Email: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**

Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

EMAIL THREAD 12

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 23 April 2025 11:10 **To:** Eleanor Passmore Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs for review - due with PO 23/04/25 by 12:00

Thanks Eleanor,

It is still showing you are locked in the Alexander Burnett one if you could release it please and I will get cracking on getting them away.

Thanks again,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: Eleanor Passmore Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot

Sent: 23 April 2025 10:53 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Subject: RE: Oral PQs for review - due with PO 23/04/25 by 12:00

Morning [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Many thanks for all the work that has gone into these, they look in good shape.

I've tracked in some comments (none major) and content for these to once you've had a chance to address these.

Eleanor

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 22 April 2025 17:08 **To:** Eleanor Passmore Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot

Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** Oral PQs for review - due with PO 23/04/25 by 12:00

Hi Eleanor,

Please see the below links to the two Oral PQs we have been drafting for your review.

We are currently still working on the supplementary questions/background notes and also working with schools colleagues on a known PQ for FMQs ([redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] has just sent this one on for your awareness).

Also aware that the current FMQ at the bottom of both background notes may change before submitting but I will keep an eye out for **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** sending any updates and replace accordingly.

ELC - 1140 - Oral PQ on Start Dates - S6o-04571 - 22 April 2025 (A52663420)

ELC - Rural - Oral PQ S6O-04569 - Alexander Burnett - ELC Rural Accessibility - April 2025 (A52649346)

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

EMAIL THREAD 13

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 14:02 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi again, Just to follow up – the supplementary focused on supporting children’s transition into

primary school. There was no specific reference to the mothballing review, although FM noted that the issues Ms Grahame raised (about the impact of nursery closures on attached primary schools and children’s transition to school) were “substantive considerations” making sure that we have ELC provision available in all communities in Scotland, which is what the SG is funding through the local government settlement.

In his answer FM also emphasised that the 1140 expansion aims to ensure the best possible start and a natural progression into school. He reflected that Ms Grahame’s point about structures is also about curriculum - in many schools there is a continuation of the play-based curriculum in P1 and sometimes P2, which is the foundation of children’s early learning and childcare experience

I hope that’s helpful,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] On Behalf Of Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 24 April 2025 12:14 **To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data];** Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise – Natalie Don-Innes MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 24 April 2025 11:45 **To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data];** Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** and **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**,

Thanks for the feedback – revised version in the attached. Does this work better?

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:32 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] & Team

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Can you update/revise please?

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:17 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Good morning PO,

Please see the attached answers to the below supps.

Please note that there is also an additional supp regarding Renfrewshire Council's upcoming vote to reverse the start date change included in the attached, the answer for which has been cleared by Cab Sec. I have also attached the latest FMQ brief for awareness.

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 23 April 2025 17:27 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data];** Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** and team

Thanks again, really appreciated as always!. **Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office**

Could we please have a draft response by 12:00 tomorrow?

2. Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S6O-04569)**

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

4. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday. **(S6O-04571)**

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 23 April 2025 15:58 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; Subject: RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Afternoon **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**,

Apologies I think we decided to remove that Annex as the advice was from 2024 but I have attached the information it contained just for reference.

Thank you for the update, please let us know should Ms. Don-Innes require any further information.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] On Behalf Of Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise Sent: 23 April 2025 15:41 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; Subject: RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi Team

Thanks again for the responses and further info.

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

□□□□

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 23 April 2025 17:27 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot>; **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** and team

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

2. Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S6O-04569)**

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

4. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday. **(S6O-04571)**

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:32 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The

Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] & Team

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] [Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Can you update/revise please?

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 23 April 2025 17:27 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] and team

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office
2. Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. (S6O-04569)

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office
4. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday. (S6O-04571)

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

EMAIL THREAD 16

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:57 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Thanks [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]– the team are in touch with [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]. As a very brief overview – **[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]**

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:46 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The

Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Thanks,

E

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:45 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]and [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

Thanks for the feedback – revised version in the attached. Does this work better?

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] On Behalf Of Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:32 **To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data];** Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**& Team

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]**

Can you update/revise please?

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise – Natalie Don-Innes MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:17 **To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data];** Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Good morning PO,

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 23 April 2025 17:27

To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] and team

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office
2. Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S6O-04569)**

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office
4. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday. **(S6O-04571)**

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a

Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 23 April 2025 15:58 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore

<Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Afternoon [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

Apologies I think we decided to remove that Annex as the advice was from 2024 but I have attached the information it contained just for reference.

Thank you for the update, please let us know should Ms. Don-Innes require any further information.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise **Sent:** 23 April 2025 15:41 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi Team

Thanks again for the responses and further info.

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Kind regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found here

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 23 April 2025 15:30 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> Subject: RE: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Hi PO team.

The FMQ is attached here for Ms Don-Innes' information.

Thanks

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Policy and Briefing Manager

Strategy Team | Early Learning & Childcare Division | Directorate for Children & Families | Scottish Government

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 23 April 2025 13:11 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot> Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore <Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot> Subject: Oral PQs S6O-04569 and S6O-04571 - To Note

Good afternoon PO,

With apologies for overrunning your deadline, the two oral PQs above have now been uploaded onto the PQ tracker. Just a note that the current FMQ is still under review and will follow, so there is no current FMQ at the bottom of both background notes.

Also to note, and with the interest of keeping rather large background notes down as much as possible we have some general background information in Annex B of S6O-04569 which may be relevant to both PQs.

I hope this makes sense but happy to chat if needed.

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 17 April 2025 15:02 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** School Age Childcare Programme **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Subject:** Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April **Importance:** High

Good afternoon everyone,

We have received the below Oral PQ:

Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S6O-04569)**

With thanks to **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**, we have a working first draft of the answer, background note and supplementary questions linked here: ELC - Rural - Oral PQ S6O-04569 - Alexander Burnett - ELC Rural Accessibility - April 2025 (A52649346)

Could you please review this for your interests and update any lines where necessary please by **close of play Tuesday 22nd of April**. **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** managed to agree a brief extension for us to submit this, and another oral PQ (which I am afraid I may be getting in touch with some of you again later this afternoon, sorry!), so again massive apologies for the quick turn around.

Thanks everyone for your help,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

EMAIL THREAD 22

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 22 April 2025 14:47 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April

Brilliant thank you [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data].

I have missed [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] update, my fault.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 22 April 2025 14:42 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

I see my colleague [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] has already tracked a few changes in the background section so I am happy on that basis.

Our best example of supporting childcare provision on islands remains the £1.6 million investment in a new nursery in Orkney.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] | National Islands Plan Team Leader | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy | Scottish Government [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 22 April 2025 14:09 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April

Good afternoon everyone,

Can I please just check that you have reviewed the below PQ for your interests please? The deadline for edits is close of play today. Apologies if there has already been a review and I have missed it coming through!

Thanks again,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 17 April 2025 15:00 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] School Age Childcare Programme [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Subject: Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April Importance: High

Good afternoon everyone,

We have received the below Oral PQ:

Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S60-04569)**

With thanks to **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**, we have a working first draft of the answer, background note and supplementary questions linked here: ELC - Rural - Oral PQ S60-04569 - Alexander Burnett - ELC Rural Accessibility - April 2025 (A52649346)

Could you please review this for your interests and update any lines where necessary please by **close of play Tuesday 22nd of April**. **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** managed to agree a brief extension for us to submit this, and another oral PQ (which I am afraid I may be getting in touch with some of you again later this afternoon, sorry!), so again massive apologies for the quick turn around.

Thanks everyone for your help,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

EMAIL THREAD 23

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 17 April 2025 15:44 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

We'll take a look. We also had an Oral PQ from Mr Burnett last summer about the mothballing of Tullynessle Primary – here is the background note for it in case helpful. As I say we'll have a look at the material you already (which looks v comprehensive).

Thanks

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Team Leader - School Organisation Team

School Funding, Infrastructure and Organisation | Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division | Scottish Government

2-B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Maoineachadh, Bun-structair agus Eagrachaidh Sgoiltean | Roinn Luchd-obrach, Bun-structar agus Ath-leasachadh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 17 April 2025 15:02 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

School Age Childcare Programme [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April **Importance:** High

Good afternoon everyone,

We have received the below Oral PQ:

Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S60-04569)**

With thanks to **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**, we have a working first draft of the answer, background note and supplementary questions linked here: ELC -

Rural - Oral PQ S6O-04569 - Alexander Burnett - ELC Rural Accessibility - April 2025 (A52649346)

Could you please review this for your interests and update any lines where necessary please by **close of play Tuesday 22nd of April**. **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** managed to agree a brief extension for us to submit this, and another oral PQ (which I am afraid I may be getting in touch with some of you again later this afternoon, sorry!), so again massive apologies for the quick turn around.

Thanks everyone for your help,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

EMAIL THREAD 24

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 22 April 2025 14:48 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Subject:** RE: Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April

That's great thank you for confirming **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**, more cautionary I think including you in the original copy list so happy that if you feel lines are not needed we can proceed as it is now.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 22 April 2025 14:43 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

I've reviewed, but there's currently no lines from our team in there to check, and I don't think any are needed on the RDP for this, we'd just be ballooning your briefing.

Best,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Team Leader – Rural Delivery Policy

Rural Policy Unit

Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy

Scottish Government

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 22 April 2025 14:09 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April

Good afternoon everyone,

Can I please just check that you have reviewed the below PQ for your interests please? The deadline for edits is close of play today. Apologies if there has already been a review and I have missed it coming through!

Thanks again,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 17 April 2025 15:00 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] School Age Childcare Programme
[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** Rural Oral PQ - S60-04569 for Review COP Tuesday 22nd of April **Importance:** High

Good afternoon everyone,

We have received the below Oral PQ:

Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures. **(S60-04569)**

With thanks to [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data], we have a working first draft of the answer, background note and supplementary questions linked here: ELC - Rural - Oral PQ S60-04569 - Alexander Burnett - ELC Rural Accessibility - April 2025 (A52649346)

Could you please review this for your interests and update any lines where necessary please by **close of play Tuesday 22nd of April**. [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] managed to agree a brief extension for us to submit this, and another oral PQ (which I am afraid I may be getting in touch with some of you again later this afternoon, sorry!), so again massive apologies for the quick turn around.

Thanks everyone for your help,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager

Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

EMAIL THREAD 25

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:20 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Supp to Known FMQ - Ch. Grahame- rural primary schools - Due 9.30 am Thu

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] and [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Many thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Agreed response for today:

Rural nurseries are vital for our local communities, and clearly mothballing and closures are hugely significant issues for the communities they serve. Council-run nurseries attached to rural primary schools are subject to additional protections under the 2010 Act, including a requirement for Education Scotland to scrutinise an Educational Benefits Statement. I know that Christine Grahame has been engaging already with the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise, and the Minister would be happy to meet with the member to further discuss this important issue for families in the Borders.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 08:48 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Supp to Known FMQ - Ch. Grahame- rural primary schools - Due 9.30 am Thu

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

Thanks for copying me in. I'm copying [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] in also as I'll be out until later this afternoon.

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

From[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 08:30 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Supp to Known FMQ - Ch. Grahame- rural primary schools - Due 9.30 am Thu

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Just limiting this to policy officials for now. Also bringing in [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] [Redacted Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views] [Redacted Section 29(1)(b) – Ministerial communications]

[Redacted Section 29(1)(b) – Ministerial communications]

So, I think we could the answer to the question below could be something like:

[Redacted Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Hope helpful.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Team Leader - School Organisation Team

School Funding, Infrastructure and Organisation | Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division | Scottish Government

2-B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Maoineachadh, Bun-structair agus Eagrachaidh Sgoiltean | Roinn Luchd-obrach, Bun-structar agus Ath-leasachadh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 23 April 2025 12:55 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Urgent: Known FMQ - Ch. Grahame- rural primary schools - Due 5pm Tuesday

Many thanks for that [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]. Happy that lines used to answer are all in the brief already 😊

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

First Minister's Questions Manager, Scottish Government

4th Floor, St Andrew's House

Preparing First Minister's Questions (FMQs) (sharepoint.com)

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 23 April 2025 12:35 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Urgent: Known FMQ - Ch. Grahame- rural primary schools - Due 5pm Tuesday

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

We are just about to put the ELC oral PQ packs through to Private Office for Ms Don-Innes's review. Here is the proposed answer to Alexander Burnett MSP on rural childcare:

Alexander Burnett, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party MSP for Aberdeenshire West: To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring access to early learning and childcare for families in rural areas, in light of reports of recent nursery closures.

Access to high quality, accessible and affordable early learning and childcare is vital for rural communities. That is why the Scottish Government funds local authorities to deliver 1140 hours of ELC to all eligible children, backed by around £1 billion funding each year.

Councils are responsible for ensuring that local provision meets families' needs, and for decisions relating to their ELC estate.

In addition, the Scottish Government is supporting projects to improve childcare provision in rural communities through the Addressing Depopulation Action Plan, our childcare Early Adopter Communities and the Programme for Scotland's Childminding Future.

We also have a supplementary on Aberdeenshire's mothballing proposals as follows:

What is the Minister's view on Aberdeenshire Council's decision to mothball four nurseries that provide vital services for families in rural communities?

Decisions on the early learning and childcare estate are for councils to make. It would not be appropriate for me to comment on an individual council's approach.

At a national level, the Scottish Government recognises that schools and nurseries play an important role in their communities and mothballing is a matter of significance to the communities they serve. As outlined in our national guidance, it is important that councils seek the views of communities to understand how mothballing may affect local needs.

Mothballing should only be for a temporary period and should be subject to regular review, at least annually, against the same requirements which led to the original decision to mothball.

I would encourage families affected by any planned mothballing to engage with their local Council.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

EMAIL THREAD 26

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:03 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** RE: Supplementary Question for Oral PQ S6O-04569 - FOR REVIEW THIS MORNING

Hi **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** and **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**

Suggested contribution below from CLLD perspective:

The Scottish Government's Community Led Local Development (CLLD) programme delivers place-based interventions to support local people and deliver national outcomes, which can include support for childcare services. We have invested over £29m of CLLD funding in our rural communities since 2021, delivering more than 1,000 grassroots community-led projects across rural & island Scotland in partnership with rural organisations. As an example, CLLD funding was awarded to Midlothian Sure Start in 2023 to support the development of an 'Open Kindergarten' approach to early years family support that originated in Sweden. More recently, additional CLLD funding was awarded to Midlothian Sure Start to develop a baby room at the Penicuik Family Learning Centre. The need for this service came from local residents.

Cheers

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Rural Communities | Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Currently working from home

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 24 April 2025 10:24 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Subject: RE: Supplementary Question for Oral PQ S6O-04569 - FOR REVIEW THIS MORNING

Absolutely fine from my perspective in terms of the ADAP mention too, thanks

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] | Population Team Leader

Population and Migration Division | Directorate for Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

pronouns: he/him/his

working week: Monday to Thursday

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 24 April 2025 10:19 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

personal data] Subject: RE: Supplementary Question for Oral PQ S6O-04569 - FOR REVIEW THIS MORNING

Ok for islands

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] | National Islands Plan Team Leader | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy | Scottish Government **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]**

From: **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Sent:** 24 April 2025 08:38 **To:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Cc:** **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** **Subject:** Supplementary Question for Oral PQ S6O-04569 - FOR REVIEW THIS MORNING

Morning All,

We have been working on an Oral PQ for Mr Burnett regarding rural childcare which has been followed up with a supplementary question. **[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]** has drafted the below answer if you could please once over for your interests.

The deadline for these questions have been a bit condensed with the holiday on Monday so if you could review and suggest any changes if needed by latest **11:30 this morning** that would be much appreciated.

Thanks again,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

24 April supplementary questions (A52690022)

Can the Minister outline what measures the Scottish Government is taking to address the challenges facing rural and island communities and can she point to any specific investments?

While it is for local authorities to shape funded ELC service delivery in line with local demand, I recognise the particular and distinct challenges faced by rural and island communities in relation to childcare more widely.

At a national level, in addition to the work underway through our National Islands Plan and Addressing Depopulation Action Plan, I am pleased to confirm that the Scottish Government will provide over £1.6 million in 2025-26 to support the second year of the Programme for Scotland's Childminding Future. This will help increase the availability of childminding services which can provide vital support to families in rural and island areas.

I also welcomed the opportunity to meet Highlands and Islands Enterprise late last year to discuss these issues. I asked them to provide a report to consolidate our knowledge in this area and identify potential solutions that could improve childcare availability in rural and island communities. I look forward to receiving their report in due course.

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Childminding Policy Manager
Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit
Early Learning and Childcare Division
Scottish Government, 2D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

□□□□

EMAIL THREAD 27

From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot> **Sent:** 17 April 2025 11:15 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Subject:** PQ Reference: S6O-04571

A PQ, reference S6O-04571 has been allocated to you as lead action officer. This PQ may be reached by clicking on the link below.

Your PQ Tracker Home Page is at:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/drafting/answer>

- MSP: Neil Bibby
- Due at MPO: 22/04/2025
- Question Text: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of three-year-old children receive free early learning and childcare in the week after their third birthday.

Allocation notes: Please find attached Oral PQ due 12 Noon Tuesday On receipt of this message, can you please ensure The Private Office and Minister drop down fields are complete. The answer must be cleared by your C band or DD before being sent to PO. Please be aware when answering a PQ, you should send the answer to PO using the "Private Office for approval" option. If the PQ is not for you it is important you let us know asap so we can re-allocate. I have copied in your Line manager for awareness and would appreciate their support in ensuring this happens. **Please note that the PQ/FMQ Team do NOT receive any notification if a PQ is rejected on the tracker. If you have a PQ requiring reallocation, you MUST email PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot to advise and request this.**

The user guidance for the PQ Tracker system may be found here:-

<https://scotsconnect.sharepoint.com/sites/WhoWeAre/SitePages/answering-parliamentary-questions.aspx>

EMAIL THREAD 28

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 24 April 2025 11:03 **To:** Cabinet Secretariat Inbox [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]; Eleanor Passmore Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot **Subject:** RE: Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

Many thanks for the swift and helpful reply. We will share this with Ms Don-Innes.

Best wishes,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit

Early Learning and Childcare Division

Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretariat
Inbox **Sent:** 24 April 2025 10:40 **To:** [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal
data] Cabinet Secretariat Inbox [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Cc:**
Eleanor Passmore Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot **Subject:** Redacted: s. 29
Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Thanks for your email.

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Best regards

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] COMMS: Cabinet, Parliament and
Governance Division: Cabinet Secretariat

4N.01-02 St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

e: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] or by MS Teams

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] **Sent:** 23 April 2025 18:06 **To:**
Cabinet Secretariat Inbox [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Cc: Eleanor Passmore Eleanor.Passmore@gov.scot **Subject:** Redacted: s. 29
Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Apologies for additional email – adding Eleanor to the copy list. Parly Clerks have also sent the query on to the Minister for Parliamentary Business Office in case it sits with them. I would be very grateful for advice to inform draft supplementary answers which Ms Don-Innes requires by midday on Thursday.

Many thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit
Early Learning and Childcare Division
Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 23 April 2025 17:04 To: Cabinet Secretariat [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Cc: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Subject: RE: Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office [Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Thanks very much,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Head of Sector Sustainability, Childminding and 1140 Unit
Early Learning and Childcare Division
Children and Families Directorate

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

My working pattern is Monday to Thursday.

From: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Sent: 23 April 2025 16:57 To: [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Cabinet Secretariat Inbox [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data] Subject: RE: Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

interest **Importance:** High

Hi [redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data],

[Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views]

Thanks,

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

[redacted Section 38(1)(b) personal data]

Looking for guidance on engaging with the Scottish Parliament or delivering legislation? Content is available on Saltire:

- LCM Guidance
- Scotland Act Order Guidance

- Parliamentary Guidance Notes

- The Bill Handbook

- SSI Guidance

- Policy Profession eLearning | SG Thrive

(S6O-04570) Maurice Golden: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions the education secretary has had with ministerial colleagues regarding what action is being taken to reduce vaping in schools.

Document 1

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
Sent: 23 April 2025 17:38
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
Sent: 23 April 2025 17:36
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Hi [REDACTED]

& Team

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Mobile: [REDACTED]

| Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 April 2025 12:18

To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Subject: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

The PQ S6O-04570 has been sent to you by PO - Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

Additional information:

You may access the private office section of the PQ tracking system by clicking on the following link:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/question/privateofficeapprovallist>

or access the PQ directly by clicking below:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/question/privateofficeapprove/351206473>

Document 2

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 April 2025 11:31
To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]
@gov.scot[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Lewis Hedge <Lewis.Hedge@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee
<Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Hi [REDACTED]

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People
and The Promise
Sent: 23 April 2025 17:38
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]
@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

From: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Sent: 23 April 2025 17:36

To: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Hi [REDACTED]

& Team

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Mobile: [REDACTED]

| Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 April 2025 12:18
To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

The PQ S6O-04570 has been sent to you by PO - Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

Additional information:

You may access the private office section of the PQ tracking system by clicking on the following link:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/question/privateofficeapprovallist>

or access the PQ directly by clicking below:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/question/privateofficeapprove/351206473>

Document 2 - Attachment

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Background

Health and Wellbeing Curriculum

1. Health and Wellbeing is one of the eight curricular areas in Curriculum for Excellence. Health and Wellbeing isn't a single subject or class. It is organised into six areas:
 - Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing
 - Planning for choices and changes
 - Physical education, physical activity and sport
 - Food and health
 - Substance misuse
 - Relationships, sexual health and parenthood.

2. During the secondary phase, the same organisers are delivered through three specialist subjects—Physical Education, Home Economics and Personal and Social Education—supported by cross curricular practice. PE deepens physical literacy and lifelong activity habits; HE strengthens practical nutrition and resource management skills; PSE provides a forum for self-awareness, ethical decision making and citizenship.
-
3. Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence ensures that every child and young person develops the confidence, understanding and habits necessary to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. The progressive pathway—from the six organisers in the early years and primary stages to the specialist disciplines of PE, Home Economics and Personal and Social Education in secondary—guarantees continuity while recognising learners’ evolving needs.
-
4. Health and Wellbeing is also about the whole approach of the nursery, school, college or other setting. The ethos should support what children are learning and the climate – the behaviour that’s modelled and encouraged – should reflect this. For example, in class young people will learn about respect, so they should experience respectful relationships with each other and staff. Similarly, they will learn about healthy eating so should have access to healthy food options.

Curriculum Improvement Cycle

5. Education Scotland has been leading on development and delivery of the new Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC), which represents a planned and systemic approach to strengthening the curriculum to ensure it remains forward looking and supports more consistent teaching and learning experiences and improved attainment and achievement of our children and young people.
6. The CIC aims to ensure that health and wellbeing remains a key part of Scottish education for children and young people, responsive to both local and global priorities.

Specific Health and Wellbeing Initiatives

7. The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people is an absolute priority for the Scottish Government. We committed to ensuring that every secondary school would have access to counselling services and have delivered that commitment.

8. We continue to support our local authority partners with £16 million in funding a year to support delivery of the commitment.

10. In December 2020, local authorities confirmed that access to counselling services through secondary schools was in place across Scotland. All school pupils aged 10 and above have access to school counselling services.

11. School counsellors are not intended to replace the support provided by adults in educational settings to promote the wellbeing of young people and should be seen as part of a whole school approach to supporting wellbeing.

Document 3

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Sent: 24 April 2025 11:49

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: Lewis Hedge <Lewis.Hedge@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Hi [REDACTED]

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

|

[REDACTED]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Mobile: [REDACTED]

| Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 24 April 2025 11:31

To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>;

[REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)[REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Lewis Hedge <Lewis.Hedge@gov.scot>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>;

[REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; Erin Mckee

<Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see attached draft answer to the supplementary, please let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Sent: 23 April 2025 17:38

To: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)[REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>;

REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

From: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Sent: 23 April 2025 17:36

To: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Hi [REDACTED]
& Team

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government
St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Mobile: [REDACTED]
| Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 April 2025 12:18
To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

The PQ S6O-04570 has been sent to you by PO - Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

Additional information:

You may access the private office section of the PQ tracking system by clicking on the following link:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/question/privateofficeapprovallist>

or access the PQ directly by clicking below:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/question/privateofficeapprove/351206473>

Document 4

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 24 April 2025 12:04

To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

@gov.scot>

Cc: Lewis Hedge <Lewis.Hedge@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot[REDACTED]

@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Thanks [REDACTED]

please see revised answer attached.

We have focused the supplementary answer on wider health and wellbeing as the main answer focuses on vaping. Please let me know if you need anything else,

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From[REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Sent: 24 April 2025 11:49

To: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Lewis Hedge <Lewis.Hedge@gov.scot>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Hi [REDACTED]

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise – Natalie Don-Innes MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Mobile[REDACTED]

| Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 24 April 2025 11:31

To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Lewis Hedge <Lewis.Hedge@gov.scot>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Hi [REDACTED]

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office
Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Sent: 23 April 2025 17:38

To: [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

From[REDACTED][\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Sent: 23 April 2025 17:36

To: [REDACTED][\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED][\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

Hi [REDACTED]

& Team

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Mobile: [REDACTED]

| Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 April 2025 12:18
To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: PQ Reference: S6O-04570

The PQ S6O-04570 has been sent to you by PO - Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

Additional information:

You may access the private office section of the PQ tracking system by clicking on the following link:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/question/privateofficeapprovallist>

or access the PQ directly by clicking below:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/question/privateofficeapprove/351206473>

Document 4 – Attachment

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

([S6O-04572](#)) James Dornan: To ask the Scottish Government what impact the cessation of the inclusion of family members on UK student visas has had on university admission numbers in Scotland. – **Question withdrawn**

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S6O-04572

James Dornan MSP for Glasgow Cathcart (Constituency) Scottish National Party is not a member of any Committees, nor does he have any Parliamentary and Government Roles. He is a member of 6 cross-party groups, none of which are directly linked to the topic of this PQ.

The question below will be taken in the Chamber on 24 April 2025

[S60-04572](#) James Dornan: To ask the Scottish Government what impact the cessation of the inclusion of family members on UK student visas has had on university admission numbers in Scotland.

Answer:

Home Office statistics show that UK wide applications from Sponsored study visa main applicants from April 2024 to March 2025 were down 12% compared to January to December 2023, the last full year before the visa change. UK wide applications from dependants of students were down 86% for the same time periods.

Scottish Government believes people who are entitled to live and study in Scotland should be able to bring close family with them. We are calling on the UK Government to work with us to deliver tailored migration solutions for Scotland, including a Scottish Graduate Visa.

Previous PQs relating to the impact of the UKG changes to student visas

James Dornan has not asked any questions directly related to this topic in the last year.

S6W-36370 – asked by Miles Briggs, MSP for Lothian, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Date Lodged: 2 April 2025

Current Status: Answer expected on 30 April 2025

Question: To ask the Scottish Government what measures it is taking to ensure that colleges remain competitive in attracting international students, compared with colleges in other parts of the UK and internationally.

S6W-36846 – asked by Stephen Kerr, MSP for Central Scotland, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Date Lodged: 11 April 2025

Current Status: Answer expected on 9 May 2025

Question: To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the potential impact of declining international student enrolments on university finances, in light of reports that applications from overseas students are down by over 10%.

S6T-02448 – asked by Willie Rennie, MSP for North East Fife, Scottish Liberal Democrats

Date Lodged: 24 March 2025

Current Status: Taken in Chamber on 25 March 2025

Question: To To ask the Scottish Government what practical steps it is taking to review the funding model for Scottish universities, in light of recent reports that the number of international students enrolled at Scottish universities fell by more than 10% between 2023 and 2024.

BACKGROUND

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Contact Name: []
Ext: []

Email: 22 April

Thanks redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Kind Regards

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data Policy Officer

International Higher Education Unit | Skills Division | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

7th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data | www.gov.scot

Microsoft Teams: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Sent: 22 April 2025 17:00

To: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **Cc:** redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

I think that still makes sense - happy with the line below given the need to cut the paragraph down.

Thanks,

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data Senior Assistant Statistician | LEO

Statistics | Advanced Learning and Skills Analysis

Education Analytical Services | Scottish Government

Atlantic Quay | Glasgow | G2 8LU | Office Number: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Temporary contact number: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data – Please note that I am working between home and the office and may not be available on my office number

From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Sent: 22 April 2025 16:13

To: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **Cc:** redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **Subject:** RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

I've sent you and redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data the final eRDM version, but we had to cut the first paragraph down a bit so before I put on the PQ tracker, I just want to double check that you're definitely happy with the below (and that it makes sense 😊)?

Home Office statistics show that UK wide applications from Sponsored study visa main applicants from April 2024 to March 2025 were down 12% compared to January to December 2023, the last full year before the visa change. UK wide applications from dependants of students were down 86% for the same time periods.

Kind Regards

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data Policy Officer

International Higher Education Unit | Skills Division | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

7th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

| www.gov.scot

Microsoft Teams: lisa.young2@gov.scot

From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Sent: 22 April 2025 15:14

To: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Cc: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Subject: RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Yes we can and should say the below to clarify it's a full year for both, as its comparing the 12 months up to and including March 2025 (April 2024-March 2025) to the 12 months up to and including December 2023 (January 2023-December 2023), so its both looking at a years' worth of data of visa applicants ending at the latter month. Apologies that might have stemmed from my wording of it last Thursday!

Following immigration rule changes that came into effect in January 2024 preventing most students from bringing dependants, Home Office statistics show that UK wide applications from Sponsored study visa main applicants in the year ending March 2025 were down 12% from the year ending December 2023. UK wide applications from dependants of students were down 86% for the same time period.

Thanks,

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Senior Assistant Statistician | LEO Statistics | Advanced Learning and Skills Analysis Education Analytical Services | Scottish Government

Atlantic Quay | Glasgow | G2 8LU | Office Number: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Temporary contact number: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

– Please note that I am working between home and the office and may not be available on my office number

From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Sent: 22 April 2025 15:04

To: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Cc: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Subject: FW: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

[redacted - Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice].

Kind Regards

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Policy Officer

International Higher Education Unit | Skills Division | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

7th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Microsoft Teams redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

From: Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 April 2025 14:59

To: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Cc: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Subject: RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Thanks.

Following immigration rule changes that came into effect in January 2024 preventing most students from bringing dependants, Home Office statistics show that UK wide applications from Sponsored study visa main applicants in March 2025 were down 12% from the year ending December 2023. UK wide applications from dependants of students were down 86% for the same time period.

Am finding the highlighted part difficult to understand – we seem to be comparing a one month period with the year 2023. Am I misunderstanding? If so, can we explain differently.

The Scottish Government believes that people who are entitled to live and study in Scotland should be able to bring close family with them. That is why we are calling

on the UK Government to work with us to deliver tailored migration solutions for Scotland, including a Scottish Graduate Visa.

[redacted - Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice].

Adam

Adam Reid | Deputy Director, Skills | Skills Division | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay, Glasgow
07500883212

From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data
Sent: 22 April 2025 14:50
To: Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>
Cc: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data
Subject: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi Adam

Please see link below for Oral PQ S6O-04572 for your clearance. To note – we are still waiting on supplementary Q&A from migration colleagues, which I have chased.

[Oral PQ S6O-04572 - Answer and Background Note \(A52672078\)](#)

Kind Regards

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data Policy Officer

International Higher Education Unit | Skills Division | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

7th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data www.gov.scot
Microsoft Teams: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Email: 21/04/2025

Hi **redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data**

Are you ok with the suggested draft below which we've tweaked from your lines to fit within the 97 word limit?

[S60-04572](#) James Dornan: To ask the Scottish Government what impact the cessation of the inclusion of family members on UK student visas has had on university admission numbers in Scotland.

Answer:

The restrictions on dependents introduced by the Conservative UK Government and maintained by Labour, are significant disincentives to making Scotland an attractive proposition for international students.

Following immigration rule changes that came into effect in January 2024 preventing students from bringing dependants, Home Office statistics show that UK wide applications from Sponsored study visa main applicants in the year ending March 2025 (417,000) were 11% lower than the year ending March 2024.

Furthermore, there were 20,100 UK wide applications from dependants of students in the year ending March 2025, 86% fewer than the year ending December 2023. (97 words)

Also, I couldn't find any previous PQs on this subject in the system – are you aware of any we can put into the briefing pack? [s6O-04572 background note.docx](#)

[**redacted - Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice**].

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data apologies for not using the UCAS data after you pulling it together, it just wasn't possible to do so in the 97 word limit. – I'm open to suggestions if you have them.

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data apologies for requesting your clearance in tandem, but we only received this PQ today and it has a deadline of noon on Tues – 1 day to get drafted and cleared.

Kind regards,

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data | **Enabling the Economy: Skills Division**
Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

E: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data [The Scottish Government - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Sent: 17 April 2025 15:29

To: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Cc: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Subject: RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 & S6O-04573 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Thank you for sending this over. Is there any background information that you could also provide?

Kind Regards

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data Policy Officer

International Higher Education Unit | Skills Division | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

7th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data | www.gov.scot

Microsoft Teams: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **On Behalf Of** Migration Mailbox

Sent: 17 April 2025 11:12

To: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Cc: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Subject: RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 & S6O-04573 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Morning redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Please see lines below. Let me know if you require anything further.

- Those who choose Scotland as their home help grow our economy, increase productivity and innovation and address skills shortages.
- While immigration is reserved, the Scottish Government is committed to working closely with the UK Government to make a positive difference.
- Migration policy should support mobility, collaboration, and innovation and must suitably reflect the skills requirements of all sectors of the economy.
- Scotland's distinct demographic and economic needs require a tailored approach to migration.
- Scotland's population, and importantly, its working-age population, will only continue to grow if migration to Scotland is maintained at the current rates. Steps taken by the Home Office to curb overall migration to the whole of the UK are likely to hamper Scotland's economic prospects and the sustainability of its communities.
- International students have a positive economic impact on Scotland. We want to attract and retain international students in Scotland. However, the restrictions on

dependents and the significant increase in the salary threshold for the Skilled Worker Visa, introduced by the Conservative UK Government and maintained by Labour following the UK General election are significant disincentives to making this a realistic or attractive proposition for international students.

- Following immigration rule changes that came into effect in January 2024 which prevent students from bringing dependants, Home Office statistics published on 10 April show that UK wide applications from Sponsored study visa main applicants in the year ending March 2025 (417,000) were 11% lower than the year ending March 2024.
- Furthermore, there were 20,100 UK wide applications from dependants of students in the year ending March 2025, 86% fewer than the year ending December 2023.

Regards,

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **Senior Migration Policy Officer**

Please direct migration queries to the Migration Strategy Team inbox,

migration@gov.scot

Migration Strategy Team | Population and Migration Division | Directorate for Culture and External Affairs | Scottish Government | Atlantic Quay, Glasgow | M: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Sent: 17 April 2025 09:15

To: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Cc: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Subject: RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 & S6O-04573 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Yes, please allocate to redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Migration colleagues, can you please share any lines you have in relation to the impact of the visa changes.

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data flagging as we will be coming to you to check any figures we quote.

Kind regards,

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **Enabling the Economy: Skills Division| Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government**

Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

E: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data [The Scottish Government - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **On Behalf Of** Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills

Sent: 17 April 2025 09:00

To: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data
Cc: Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills
<DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data
Subject: FW: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 & S6O-04573 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Morning redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Grateful if you can confirm if you are content to lead on the following Oral PQ please?

5. James Dornan: To ask the Scottish Government what impact the cessation of the inclusion of family members on UK student visas has had on university admission numbers in Scotland. ([S6O-04572](#))

Thanks

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data | Lifelong Learning and Skills Directorate | Scottish Government | GW.10 St Andrews House | Email: DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot



From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **On Behalf Of** redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **Sent:** 17 April 2025 08:54
To: Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills
<DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data
Subject: RE: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 & S6O-04573 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Hi redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

O4572 will be for redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data, probably with input from ALSA.
O4573 is for us – could you allocate to redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data.

Thanks

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **On Behalf Of** Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills
Sent: 16 April 2025 17:57
To: Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills
<DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 & S6O-04573 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data

Are the PQs below for your team to lead please?

Thanks

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data | Lifelong Learning and Skills Directorate | Scottish Government | GW.10 St Andrews House | Email: DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot



From: redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data **On Behalf Of** PQ/FMQ Team

Sent: 16 April 2025 17:07

To: Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills
<DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>

Cc: PQ/FMQ Team <pq/fmqteam@gov.scot>

Subject: Oral PQs - S6O-04572 & S6O-04573 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Dear Colleagues

Oral Parliamentary Question(s)

Please see the below Oral PQ(s) which we feel may best sit with your area. Grateful if you can confirm who we should allocate to on the PQ Tracker.

5. James Dornan: To ask the Scottish Government what impact the cessation of the inclusion of family members on UK student visas has had on university admission numbers in Scotland. ([S6O-04572](#))

6. Sarah Boyack: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what steps it is taking to protect Edinburgh's higher education sector, in light of reports of potential job losses. ([S6O-04573](#))

PQ deadline is – 12 Noon Tuesday

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PQ/FMQ TEAM DO NOT SET DEADLINES AND IF AN EXTENSION IS REQUIRED THIS SHOULD BE REQUESTED DIRECTLY FROM MINISTERIAL PRIVATE OFFICE. THANK YOU.

In the event that your policy area are unable to action, we would request that you widen the copy list to include colleagues who may be better placed to lead. This should help avoid unnecessary email traffic whilst maintaining an audit trail for the PQ/FMQ Team purposes.

****Please note that the PQ/FMQ Team do NOT receive any notification if a PQ is rejected on the tracker. If you have a PQ requiring reallocation, you MUST email PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot to advise and request this.****

Kind regards

redacted - Section 38(1)(b) personal data PQ/FMQ Officer

Central Correspondence Unit

Email: PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot

Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)



(S6O-04573) Sarah Boyack: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what steps it is taking to protect Edinburgh's higher education sector, in light of reports of potential job losses.

Fol document 1

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: 24 April 2025 11:43

To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig

<Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q6 - S6O-04573 - 24042025

Hi [redacted – section 38(1)(b)],

Thanks very much for this. To confirm, Mr Dey is content with the answer to the supp.

Many thanks,

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to the Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans – Graeme Dey MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Mob: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] | **Email:** MinisterHFEV@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 April 2025 10:24
To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans
<MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; Stuart Greig <Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q6 - S6O-04573 - 24042025

Morning [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

We would suggest the following draft answer (cleared with policy leads):

- The Scottish Government is deeply concerned that much-needed UK Government investment, which could site the Exascale supercomputer at Edinburgh University, is now in doubt. I share the member's concerns on this issue, given Edinburgh University plays a central role in UK's data science innovation sector.
- Both the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Business have been actively engaging with DSIT and UK Government Ministers to make the point that Scotland is well placed to play a leading role in hosting AI Growth Zones and vital AI infrastructure, and to seek urgent clarification on when it expects to make a final decision regarding funding for the Exascale supercomputer.

Thanks,

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] **Senior Policy Officer | University Governance and Workforce | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government**

5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

E: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Mob: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: 23 April 2025 17:52

To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans
<MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q6 - S6O-04573 - 24042025

Importance: High

Hi [redacted – section 38(1)(b)],

Thanks for your help so far on the above portfolio question. To confirm Mr Dey is content with the answer.

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Many thanks

Kind regards

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] Private Secretary | Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans.

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)], St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Ms Gilruth's Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Fol document 2

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 April 2025 09:01
To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q6 - S6O-04573 - 24042025 - Protecting Edinburgh's higher education sector

Thanks very much [redacted – section 38(1)(b)].

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] Senior Policy Officer | University Governance and Workforce | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

E: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Mob: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 April 2025 08:55
To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q6 - S6O-04573 - 24042025 - Protecting Edinburgh's higher education sector

Hi [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

Yes content with this. I also note its quite similar to a supp I believe received in March.

I am on leave today but if you have any questions please contact [redacted – section 38(1)(b)].

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

AI Policy & Delivery | Data Division | Directorate for Digital | Scottish Government |

Pronouns: she / her

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 24 April 2025 08:33

To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q6 - S6O-04573 - 24042025 - Protecting Edinburgh's higher education sector

Good morning all

Removing PO from the copy list for now. We have received the supplementary question below for Oral PQ S6O-04573, and I would be grateful if you could advise of any amendments to the proposed answer:

- The Scottish Government is deeply concerned that much-needed UK Government investment, which could site the Exascale supercomputer at Edinburgh University, is now in doubt. I share the member's concerns on this issue, given Edinburgh University plays a central role in UK's data science innovation sector.
- Both the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Business have been actively engaging with DSIT and UK Government Ministers to make the point that Scotland is well placed to play a leading role in hosting AI Growth Zones and vital AI infrastructure, and to seek urgent clarification on when it expects to make a final decision regarding funding for the Exascale supercomputer.

Grateful for any comments/changes **before 10:30 this morning.**

Thanks,

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] | **Senior Policy Officer | University Governance and Workforce | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government**

5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

E: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Mob: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: 23 April 2025 17:52

To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans
<MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q6 - S6O-04573 - 24042025

Importance: High

Hi [redacted – section 38(1)(b)],

Thanks for your help so far on the above portfolio question. To confirm Mr Dey is content with the answer.

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Many thanks

Kind regards

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]|Private Secretary | Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans.

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)], St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Ms Gilruth's Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

Fol document 3

From: Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 April 2025 12:56

To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; Amanda Callaghan <Amanda.Callaghan@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04573 - SG support for Edinburgh's higher education sector - PO deadline of 22nd April

Thanks. Looks fine and assume these are all agreed lines.

Adam

Adam Reid | Deputy Director, Skills | Skills Division | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay, Glasgow

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 April 2025 12:51

To: Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>

Cc: Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>;

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>; Amanda Callaghan <Amanda.Callaghan@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04573 - SG support for Edinburgh's higher education sector - PO deadline of 22nd April

Hi Adam

Thanks for this, you should have access now:

- LLS - IGR Unit - University of Edinburgh - S6O-04573 - Draft answer and background note.docx

Regards,

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] **Senior Policy Officer | University Governance and Workforce | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government**

5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

E: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Mob: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

From: Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 April 2025 12:44

To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Amanda Callaghan <Amanda.Callaghan@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>

Cc: Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04573 - SG support for Edinburgh's higher education sector - PO deadline of 22nd April

Happy to review but could I have access. Ta.

Adam Reid | Deputy Director, Skills | Skills Division | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay, Glasgow

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 April 2025 12:13

To: Amanda Callaghan <Amanda.Callaghan@gov.scot>; Adam Reid <Adam.Reid@gov.scot>; Naureen Ahmad <Naureen.Ahmad@gov.scot>

Cc: Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director for Lifelong Learning and Skills <DirectorforLifelongLearningandSkills@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04573 - SG support for Edinburgh's higher education sector - PO deadline of 22nd April

Good afternoon DDs

I'm not sure who can provide DD clearance of the draft Oral PQ response below in Stuart's absence this week, but grateful for confirmation this afternoon before I send to PO by cop today:

S6O-04573: SARAH BOYACK: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what steps it is taking to protect Edinburgh's higher education sector, in light of reports of potential job losses.

I have drafted an answer, background note and supplementary Q&A:

- LLS - IGR Unit - University of Edinburgh - S6O-04573 - Draft answer and background note.docx

Thanks,

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] | Senior Policy Officer | University Governance and Workforce | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

E: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Mob: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 17 April 2025 13:40

To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: Oral PQ - S6O-04573 - SG support for Edinburgh's higher education sector - PO deadline of 22nd April

Good afternoon all

I have received the following Oral PQ, which is due to be answered in the Chamber this Thursday 24th:

S6O-04573: SARAH BOYACK: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what steps it is taking to protect Edinburgh's higher education sector, in light of reports of potential job losses.

I have drafted an answer, background note and supplementary Q&A:

- LLS - IGR Unit - University of Edinburgh - S6O-04573 - Draft answer and background note.docx

I would be grateful if you could review and offer any tracked comments/amendments where you feel it is appropriate. I will then seek DD clearance before this goes up to PO by close of Tuesday 22nd.

Thanks,

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] Senior Policy Officer | University Governance and Workforce | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

E: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Mob: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

Fol document 4

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 21 April 2025 13:19

To: Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04573 - SG support for Edinburgh's higher education sector - PO deadline of 22nd April

Hi [redacted – section 38(1)(b)],

Nothing to add from an international HE perspective.

Kind regards,

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] **Team Leader (TRS) International Higher Education | Enabling the Economy: Skills Division | Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government**

Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

E: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Telephone/Mobile: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[The Scottish Government - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 17 April 2025 15:44

To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Oral PQ - S6O-04573 - SG support for Edinburgh's higher education sector - PO deadline of 22nd April

Hi [redacted – section 38(1)(b)],

I have made a few amendments to the oral PQ. Just to let you know, I am on holiday from now until the 6th May, but [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] will be about while I am away.

Thanks,

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] **Lead - Tertiary Education Funding Policy | Financial Direction and Assurance**

Directorate of Lifelong Learning and Skills | Scottish Government

Atlantic Quay 5 | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

Email: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot | Mobile: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit

Sent: 17 April 2025 15:29

To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Cc: Head of Institutional Governance and Reform Unit <IGRUnitHead@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Oral PQ - S6O-04573 - SG support for Edinburgh's higher education sector - PO deadline of 22nd April

Hi [redacted – section 38(1)(b)],

I know that we are likely to get supps next week.

For now I am content for this to go forward once others have confirmed.

Stuart will not be back until Thursday but Mandy will be back on Tuesday and could probably give DD clearance.

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

Fol document 5

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

ORAL ANSWER

24 April 2025

Index Heading: Education and Justice

Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what steps it is taking to protect Edinburgh's higher education sector, in light of reports of potential job losses.

S6O-04573

Graeme Dey: The Scottish Government is aware of broader financial pressures impacting on the university sector, including the impact of UK Government migration policies on international student recruitment, and the increase to employer national insurance contributions, which is estimated to cost Scottish universities over £48 million.

While universities are autonomous institutions with responsibility for their own strategic and operational decision making, the Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council will continue to engage closely with the sector and offer appropriate

support to universities as they develop their own plans to address financial challenges.

In line with our Fair Work principles, I expect universities to engage meaningfully with staff on the potential impact of their plans. My clear expectation is that universities work with staff to make every effort to protect jobs, and compulsory redundancies should only be considered as a last resort, after all other cost saving measures have been fully explored.

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S6O-04573

1. Sarah Boyack is a Scottish Labour MSP for the Lothian region. She is a member of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, and Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee. She has not asked any recent questions in Parliament on further and higher education matters.
2. The following questions have been asked recently on this topic:
 - a. [S6O-04499](#): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the University of Edinburgh's reported announcement that it is seeking to make around £140 million of cuts to its budget. (Sue Webber MSP, April 2025)
 - b. [S6W-35607](#): To ask the Scottish Government what its assessment is of reports that the University of Edinburgh is planning £140 million of cuts, and what impact it anticipates this could have on (a) students, (b) staff and (c) research output. (Stephen Kerr MSP, March 2025)
 - c. [S6W-35610](#): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether the reported budget constraints at (a) the University of Edinburgh and (b) other institutions could (i) lead to job losses and (ii) damage Scotland's international reputation for higher education. (Stephen Kerr MSP, March 2025)
3. On 25 February the Principal of Edinburgh University issued a message to staff confirming plans to proceed with a cost-savings programme to secure a sustainable surplus position by 2026-27 and close a £140m gap in its finances (c.10% of annual turnover), noting that the University's running costs are c.£120m per month. Beyond staff savings, including potential redundancies, the programme will also review capital expenditure on estates, seek to lower other operational costs, and review both teaching & learning and research & innovation.
4. **Not for sharing:** [redacted - Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice].

5. On 7 April UCU announced a statutory ballot on strike action and action short of a strike, from 7 Apr-20 May, in dispute over Edinburgh University's cost-savings programme and refusal to rule out compulsory redundancies. UCU have questioned the role of management and decision making at the University, given there is currently no deficit, and have cast doubt on the necessity of cuts, arguing that the University should look instead at using some of its reserves to mitigate job cuts, and focus on reducing its capital expenditure.
6. On 7 April Unison also announced a consultative ballot of its members (mainly professional services staff) on industrial action over Edinburgh University's proposed cuts. The ballot runs from 7-25 April.
7. On 16 April the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills met with the Principal of Edinburgh University to discuss its cost-saving programme and potential impact on staff.
8. On 17 April the BBC published an interview with Edinburgh University's Principal:
 - a. "There are inefficiencies about the way we deliver things. This is a mammoth university with 22 schools and lots of duplication. We're very good at adding new things, not at taking things away."
 - b. Student numbers are likely to remain at around 50,000 while the number of staff will fall from c.18,500 – (c.15,000 FTE) – cannot rule out compulsory redundancies.
 - c. No intention to close departments, and while some courses will close, existing students can be sure their current courses will be completed.
 - d. Denied that nearly £1bn of financial assets controlled by the university could be used to address financial shortfall.
 - e. "We need more income into the system, either through some kind of means testing or a post-graduate system of earnings repayment."
 - f. "Either we have tuition fees which are adequate to pay the costs, or we have another mechanism to pay the costs. If we had a hybrid system, where some people pay fees and some people don't, one possibility is that that's means-tested in some way."
9. Officials are not aware of any financial recovery plans or proposed redundancy schemes at Edinburgh Napier University, Heriot-Watt University or Queen Margaret University.

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

Lifelong Learning and Skills Directorate

April 2025

Supplementary Q & A

Q. What financial support is the Scottish Government providing to the university sector while it faces severe financial challenges?

- This Government has shown its long-term commitment to Scotland's universities by investing over £1bn every year in the sector since 2012/13.
- We listened closely to the sector in the development of this year's budget, investing over £1.1 billion in university teaching and research in 2025-26.
- Since February we have also announced an additional £25m of financial support for the Scottish Funding Council to support the sector and universities facing immediate challenges, such as Dundee.
- On 3 April the Scottish Funding Council announced indicative allocations for 2025-26 which increase the investment in teaching per Scottish student and include a 3.6% increase in core funding for research and innovation - meeting a direct ask from the university sector.

Q. Why is the Scottish Government not providing the same level of support to other universities as they are with Dundee?

- It is important to emphasise that there are unique circumstances that have led to the current situation at Dundee, and these should not be conflated with challenges faced by other universities.
- Dundee University has already acknowledged some of the internal factors that have led to its financial difficulties: inadequate financial discipline and control; poor capital planning and investment decisions; weak compliance in financial control policies, and a lack of accountability.
- The work of the independent investigation team led by Professor Pam Gillies will look into these circumstances in greater depth, and report on its findings in the next couple of months.
- The SFC has so far allocated a financial package of £22m to Dundee University to support them in addressing their immediate financial challenges. The Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council will continue to explore all means possible and consider any reasonable asks to further support the University, as it develops a plan to secure a sustainable future.
- The SFC will continue its regular engagement with other universities, monitor their financial sustainability and consider any appropriate forms of support that may be required.

Q. Will the Scottish Government consider alternative funding models for the university sector?

- The sector is aware we are open to exploring the future funding model of universities, but we are clear that this Government will not reintroduce tuition

fees. Access to higher education must be based on the ability to learn, not the ability to pay.

- Alongside the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, I have held preliminary discussions with Universities Scotland on the future funding of the sector, and have agreed to return to this subject during the summer.
- Our commitment to free tuition means that, unlike elsewhere in the UK, Scottish students studying in Scotland do not incur additional debt of up to £27,750 and average student loan debt in Scotland is the lowest in the UK.
- The latest UCAS data for the 2024 recruitment cycle also highlights record numbers of Scots securing a university place in Scotland, including record numbers from deprived areas.

Q. Is the Scottish Government concerned about the over-reliance on international students' fee income to cross-subsidise teaching and research at universities, given real-terms cuts to teaching and research grant funding in recent years?

- The Scottish Government welcomes the valuable contribution that international students make to our society, culture, and economy. We need an immigration system that supports our higher education sector to deliver the best learning, the best research and the best experience for international students who choose to study in Scotland.
- Hostile immigration policies enacted by the UK Government in recent years have hampered the ability of universities to welcome the brightest and best talent from across the world to Scotland. Ministers are committed to working with the UK Government on delivering an immigration system that supports the prosperity of Scotland's economy and communities.
- Our proposed 'Scottish Graduate Visa' would act as a bridge between the Graduate Visa and a Skilled Workers Visa, allowing us to retain international students after they graduate from Scottish institutions and support them into the workforce in Scotland.
- Our International Education Strategy's first annual report, published on 28 March, sets out the progress we are making alongside sector partners to attract students, staff, and researchers from outside the UK; help diversify our international student population, and support them to maximise their contribution to Scotland.

Q. Is SG assured that there are no other universities facing a similar crisis to Dundee, and have confidence that this will be identified by the SFC, given the Dundee crisis was not identified much earlier?

- The Scottish Government receives regular briefings from the SFC on a range of issues within the further and higher education sectors, including financial sustainability challenges. The SFC monitors financial sustainability across the sector and Ministers have confidence in their ability and expertise.

- The SFC engages closely with individual institutions to monitor their financial sustainability on a regular basis and consider appropriate forms of support, including to address short-term cash flow challenges. The Scottish Government is also sighted on specific interventions made by the SFC in support of individual institutions and across the sector as a whole.
- Based on assurances from SFC, there are no other institutions in the same situation as Dundee, although there are other institutions experiencing financial deficits and making planned changes.
- Ministers have introduced the Tertiary Education and Training Bill, which contains a set of provisions to further strengthen SFC's existing powers to monitor financial sustainability, including powers to issue statutory guidance and a notifiable events process.

Q. Does the Scottish Government agree with the Welsh Government's Higher Education Minister, and the UCU, that universities should be considering the use of their financial reserves to address financial challenges and reduce the need for job losses?

- While universities are autonomous institutions with responsibility for its own strategic and operational decision making, I would expect them to explore fully all cost-saving measures before considering redundancies.
- However it is important to note that reserves held by individual institutions do not necessarily equate to unallocated monies, and are often earmarked for a range of purposes, for example:
 - requirement to hold an agreed working capital balance to ensure sufficient cash is available to pay staff and suppliers;
 - future years spend against estates and internal projects, a proportion of which may be contractually committed;
 - unspent borrowing for capital projects that cannot be used to sustain operations without lenders' permission;
 - endowment funds, and
 - sinking (i.e. loan servicing) funds to meet future borrowing repayments in relation to private placements.

Q. What is the Scottish Government's response to criticisms from Edinburgh University staff about a salary increase for the Principal at a time when they face the threat of redundancies?

- Universities are autonomous institutions and matters relating to pay, remuneration and staffing matters are for them to determine. The salary levels of Principals and Vice-Chancellors are a matter for each university's governing body and remuneration committee.
- However, the Scottish Government expects universities to exercise restraint in setting senior pay, and senior pay packages should be in step with the salary, terms and conditions offered to other university staff.

- Universities are required to comply with the terms of the SFC's Financial Memorandum as a condition of grant funding. This includes compliance with the principles of The Scottish Code of Good HE Governance, such as the expectation that universities' remuneration committees seek the views of student and staff representatives in relation to the remuneration packages of Principals and senior executive teams; represent the public interest and avoid any inappropriate use of funds.

Q. Is the Scottish Government concerned that Scottish students are being squeezed out of places by international students at university?

- The latest UCAS End of Cycle for 2024 shows that 96% of Scots accepted to a UK university were accepted in Scotland, while 77% of acceptances to Scottish universities were from Scottish domiciled students.
- Although the latest UCAS data shows a slight increase in number of international acceptances, numbers are still down on previous years, with a 12.5% decrease in international acceptances between 2021 and 2024. The number of EU students being accepted has fallen by 80% between 2016 and 2024.
- Neither new students from the rest of the UK, nor international students, are able to access funded places which have been set aside for eligible Scottish students.

Q. What is the Scottish Government doing to address the increasing gap between the cost of teaching and the unit of teaching resource provided to universities?

- Universities will often cross-subsidise teaching and research activities through its other sources of income, and this practice is common across the UK under different funding models.
- According to the latest available data from the Transparent Approach To Costings, or TRAC, in 2021-22 Scottish universities recovered 99.2% of Full Economic Costs, compared to 95.6% for the UK as a whole.

Q. Is the Scottish Government concerned about the potential reduction in opportunities for Widening Access students resulting from real-terms cuts to funding over several years?

- The number of Scots entering a Scottish university on full-time first degree courses from deprived areas in 2023-24 is up by 37% since the establishment of the Commission on Widening Access.
- The latest UCAS data shows that there is a record number of Scots from deprived areas securing places at university through UCAS in 2024. This

includes a 44% increase in the number of 18 year olds from deprived areas securing places through UCAS since 2019.

(S6O-04574) Rona Mackay: To ask the Scottish Government what eligibility criteria and implementation guidance it has issued to local authorities regarding the use of the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund in education settings.

The portfolio questions of 24 April are listed below:

7. Rona Mackay: To ask the Scottish Government what eligibility criteria and implementation guidance it has issued to local authorities regarding the use of the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund in education settings. **(S6O-04574) [REDACTED]- Learning**

Information to be released:

Information [REDACTED] under s.38(1)(b) – personal data relating to officials below SCS grade]

Document 1

From: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 April 2025 14:26
To: [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Hi [REDACTED]

Suggested additional sentence in red. It might now be too long though so I would be inclined to cut the second par if so.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 April 2025 14:12
To: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Hi [REDACTED]

How does this look for the answer? Any suggestions for improvements welcome!
Cheers

S6O-04574 To ask the Scottish Government what eligibility criteria and implementation guidance it has issued to local authorities regarding the use of the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund in education settings.

Draft Answer: We publish [national operational guidance](#) for the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund to help local authorities determine how to invest this funding in ways which could improve educational outcomes for care experienced children and young people from birth to the age of 26, supported by the strategic aims of The Promise and the Scottish Attainment Challenge. Funding can be used to support anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked-after background at any stage in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children.

There is flexibility in terms of how Local Authorities can use the funding as we recognise the importance that decisions are made locally in terms of how best they invest the funding to meet local needs, with Directors of Education and Chief Social Workers needing to agree how plans are implemented. They are supported by Education Scotland Attainment Advisors to ensure there are strategic plans in place with processes for reporting on impact.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] **Scottish Attainment Challenge Policy Unit | Scottish Government | Mob [REDACTED] E:- [REDACTED]@gov.scot**

THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Tackling educational inequity



From: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 April 2025 11:41
To: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Hi [REDACTED]

As mentioned, this has come in with a deadline of mid-day on Tues, [redacted - Section 30(b)(i) – free and frank provision of advice].

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] **Scottish Attainment Challenge Policy Unit | Scottish Government | Mob [REDACTED] | E:- [REDACTED]@gov.scot**

THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Tackling educational inequity



From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 April 2025 10:07
To: [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

A PQ, reference S6O-04574 has been allocated to you as lead action officer. This PQ may be reached by clicking on the link below.

Your PQ Tracker Home Page is at:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/drafting/answer>

- MSP: Rona Mackay
- Due at MPO: 22/04/2025
- Question Text: To ask the Scottish Government what eligibility criteria and implementation guidance it has issued to local authorities regarding the use of the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund in education settings.

Allocation notes: Please find attached Oral PQ due 12 Noon Tuesday On receipt of this message, can you please ensure The Private Office and Minister drop down fields are complete. The answer must be cleared by your C band or DD before being sent to PO. Please be aware when answering a PQ, you should send the answer to PO using the “Private Office for approval” option. If the PQ is not for you it is

important you let us know asap so we can re-allocate. I have copied in your Line manager for awareness and would appreciate their support in ensuring this happens. **Please note that the PQ/FMQ Team do NOT receive any notification if a PQ is rejected on the tracker. If you have a PQ requiring reallocation, you MUST email PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot to advise and request this. **

The user guidance for the PQ Tracker system may be found here:-

<https://scotsconnect.sharepoint.com/sites/WhoWeAre/SitePages/answering-parliamentary-questions.aspx>

Document 2

From: Alison Taylor <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 April 2025 15:21
To: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Content with the text below and plan for the background note thanks.

Alison Taylor

Deputy Director: Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 April 2025 15:20
To: Alison Taylor <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Hi Alison

This oral PQ came in this morning with a deadline of mid-day on Tues.

So we have a suggested answer for your consideration below and will continue to work up the background note with supps if that's ok? Thanks!

S6O-04574 To ask the Scottish Government what eligibility criteria and implementation guidance it has issued to local authorities regarding the use of the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund in education settings.

Draft Answer: We publish [national operational guidance](#) for the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund to help local authorities determine how to invest this funding in ways which could improve educational outcomes for care experienced children and young people from birth to the age of 26, supported by the strategic aims of The Promise and the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Directors of Education and Chief Social Workers agree how plans are implemented locally - funding can be used to support anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked-after background at any stage in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] **Scottish Attainment Challenge Policy Unit | Scottish Government | Mob [REDACTED] E:- [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)**

THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Tackling educational inequity



From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 April 2025 10:07
To: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>
Subject: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

A PQ, reference S6O-04574 has been allocated to you as lead action officer. This PQ may be reached by clicking on the link below.

Your PQ Tracker Home Page is at:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/drafting/answer>

- MSP: Rona Mackay
- Due at MPO: 22/04/2025
- Question Text: To ask the Scottish Government what eligibility criteria and implementation guidance it has issued to local authorities regarding the use of the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund in education settings.

Allocation notes: Please find attached Oral PQ due 12 Noon Tuesday On receipt of this message, can you please ensure The Private Office and Minister drop down fields are complete. The answer must be cleared by your C band or DD before being sent to PO. Please be aware when answering a PQ, you should send the answer to PO using the "Private Office for approval" option. If the PQ is not for you it is important you let us know asap so we can re-allocate. I have copied in your Line manager for awareness and would appreciate their support in ensuring this happens. **Please note that the PQ/FMQ Team do NOT receive any notification if a PQ is rejected on the tracker. If you have a PQ requiring reallocation, you MUST email PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot to advise and request this.**

The user guidance for the PQ Tracker system may be found here:-

<https://scotsconnect.sharepoint.com/sites/WhoWeAre/SitePages/answering-parliamentary-questions.aspx>

Document 3

From: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 April 2025 12:25
To: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: s6o-04574_backgroundnote

Thanks, good addition.

I have included but turned into the format, I think, Cab Sec likes in the attached.

Have also updated the overall total as over £70m as having been given to LAs, [REDACTED] checked and that's the figure, which doesn't include the 2nd CECYP payment still due for 2024/25. So lets use that figure now.

Cheers

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] **Scottish Attainment Challenge Policy Unit |
Scottish Government | Mob [REDACTED] E:- [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)**

THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Tackling educational inequity



From: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>
Sent: 22 April 2025 11:59
To: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>
Subject: RE: s6o-04574_backgroundnote

Hi [REDACTED]

Have added a suggested supplementary.

Thanks

From: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>
Sent: 22 April 2025 11:35
To: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>
Subject: s6o-04574_backgroundnote

Hi [REDACTED]

Anything to add to this background note for the PQ?

S6O-04574 To ask the Scottish Government what eligibility criteria and implementation guidance it has issued to local authorities regarding the use of the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund in education settings.

Draft Answer: We publish [national operational guidance](#) for the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund to help local authorities determine how to invest this funding in ways which could improve educational outcomes for care experienced children and young people from birth to the age of 26, supported by the strategic aims of The Promise and the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Directors of Education and Chief Social Workers agree how plans are implemented locally - funding can be used to support anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked-after background at any stage in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children.

Cheers

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] **Scottish Attainment Challenge Policy Unit | Scottish Government | Mob [REDACTED] E:- [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)**

THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Tackling educational inequity



Document 4

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 April 2025 11:02
To: [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Have slightly rejigged to the following as it should be 97 words or less. [REDACTED]
, are you content?

Rona Mackay: Can the Minister confirm whether adopted children who were previously looked after are eligible to benefit from education support through the

Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund and whether local authorities have discretion to restrict this access? If not, what action is being taken to ensure the fund is applied equitably in line with national definitions of care experience?

Answer: I can confirm that adopted children who were previously looked after are eligible for support through the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund and this is set out clearly in the operational guidance for that fund.

There is flexibility in terms of how Local Authorities can use the funding, recognising the importance of local decision making to fit with local priorities, but we do expect the guidance to be followed.

So if the member is aware of any specific circumstances I can give an undertaking to look into that if she writes to me with the details.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] **Scottish Attainment Challenge Policy Unit | Scottish Government | Mob [REDACTED] | E:- [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)**

THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Tackling educational inequity



From: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Sent: 24 April 2025 10:00

To: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [REDACTED]< [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Looks spot on, thanks [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] **Scottish Attainment Challenge Policy Unit | Scottish Government | Mob [REDACTED] | E:- [REDACTED][@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)**

THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Tackling educational inequity



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 April 2025 09:51
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Hi [REDACTED]

Suggested response below:

Known Supplementary Question

Rona Mackay: Can the Minister confirm whether adopted children who were previously looked after are eligible to benefit from education support through the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund and whether local authorities have discretion to restrict this access? If not, what action is being taken to ensure the fund is applied equitably in line with national definitions of care experience?

Answer: I can confirm that adopted children who were previously looked after are eligible to benefit from support through the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund and this is set out clearly in the operational guidance for that fund.

There is flexibility in terms of how Local Authorities can use the funding, recognising the importance of local decision making to fit with local priorities, and Directors of Education and Chief Social Workers work together to agree on spending decisions and how plans are implemented. They are supported in that by Education Scotland's Attainment Advisors to ensure there are strategic plans in place with processes for reporting on impact.

While this flexibility exists, we do expect the guidance to be followed so that groups of children and young people are not excluded on the basis of their care experienced

background and if the member is aware of any specific instances where that is happening I can give an undertaking to look into that if she writes to me with the details.

Thanks

REDACTED

From: REDACTED <REDACTED @gov.scot>
Sent: 23 April 2025 19:19
To: REDACTED REDACTED >
Cc: REDACTED <REDACTED @gov.scot>
Subject: FW: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Hi REDACTED

To see the below follow up question. **Can you please draft a proposed response please ahead of mid-day tmw (Thurs).** As way of a reminder the answer to the question is below and background note attached. Suggest we reaffirm the second para to the answer below, and add a sentence or two from the background note and set out that if the member provides more detail via a letter we could follow up into the circumstances.

Cheers

To ask the Scottish Government what eligibility criteria and implementation guidance it has issued to local authorities regarding the use of the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund in education settings.

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

REDACTED | REDACTED | Scottish Attainment Challenge Policy Unit |
Scottish Government | Mob REDACTED | E:- REDACTED | @gov.scot

THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Tackling educational inequity



From: REDACTED]] <REDACTED]] [@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED]]@gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
Sent: 23 April 2025 17:32
To: REDACTED]] >; REDACTED]] <REDACTED]] [@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED]]@gov.scot)>; REDACTED]] <REDACTED]] [@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED]]@gov.scot)>; REDACTED]] <REDACTED]] [@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED]]@gov.scot)>; REDACTED]] [REDACTED\]\] @gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED]]@gov.scot)>
Cc: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Hi REDACTED]] & Team

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Kind regards

REDACTED]]

REDACTED]]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise –
Natalie Don-Innes MSP**

The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Mobile: REDACTED]] | Email: MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot

Ms Don-Innes' Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 April 2025 12:28
To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>
Subject: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

The PQ S6O-04574 has been sent to you by PO - Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

Additional information:

You may access the private office section of the PQ tracking system by clicking on the following link:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/question/privateofficeapprovallist>

or access the PQ directly by clicking below:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/question/privateofficeapprove/351206477>

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Document 4

From: REDACTED]] <REDACTED]]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 April 2025 11:34
To: Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
<MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; REDACTED]] <REDACTED]]@gov.scot>;
REDACTED]] <REDACTED]]@gov.scot>; REDACTED]] <REDACTED]]@gov.scot>;
REDACTED]] <REDACTED]]@gov.scot>
Cc: Alison Taylor <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; REDACTED]] <REDACTED]]@gov.scot>;
REDACTED]] <REDACTED]]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: PQ Reference: S6O-04574

Hello REDACTED]]

A suggested response is below, which is hopefully helpful, thanks.

Rona Mackay: Can the Minister confirm whether adopted children who were previously looked after are eligible to benefit from education support through the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund and whether local authorities have discretion to restrict this access? If not, what action is being taken to ensure the fund is applied equitably in line with national definitions of care experience?

Answer: I can confirm that adopted children who were previously looked after are eligible for support through the Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund and this is set out clearly in the operational guidance for that fund.

There is flexibility in terms of how Local Authorities can use the funding, recognising the importance of local decision making to fit with local priorities, but we do expect the guidance to be followed.

So if the member is aware of any specific circumstances I can give an undertaking to look into that if she writes to me with the details.

REDACTED]] | REDACTED]] | Scottish Attainment Challenge Policy Unit | Scottish Government | Mob REDACTED]] | E:- REDACTED]] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)

THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

Tackling educational inequity



(S6O-04575) Jeremy Balfour: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it can take to reduce the number of teachers on temporary contracts.

Annex A

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a) **On Behalf Of** PQ/FMQ Team

Sent: 16 April 2025

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a) Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>

Cc: PQ/FMQ Team <pq/fmqteam@gov.scot>

Subject: Oral PQ - S6O-04575 - Due 12 Noon Tuesday

Dear Colleagues

Oral Parliamentary Question(s)

Please see the below Oral PQ(s) which we feel may best sit with your area. Grateful if you can confirm who we should allocate to on the PQ Tracker.

8. Jeremy Balfour: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it can take to reduce the number of teachers on temporary contracts. **(S6O-04575)**

PQ deadline is – 12 Noon Tuesday

Kind regards

Redacted under 38(1)(a)PQ/FMQ Officer
Central Correspondence Unit
Email: PQ/FMQTeam@gov.scot
Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)



Annex B

From: s0678a@gov.scot <s0678a@gov.scot>
Sent: 19 April 2025 17:40
To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: PQ Reference: S6O-04575

A PQ, reference S6O-04575 has been allocated to you as dealing action officer. This PQ may be reached by clicking on the link below.

Your PQ Tracker Home Page is at:-

<http://s0678a:8080/pqtracker/drafting/answer>

- MSP: Jeremy Balfour
- Due at MPO: 22/04/2025
- Question Text: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it can take to reduce the number of teachers on temporary contracts.

The user guidance for the PQ Tracker system may be found here:-

<https://scotsconnect.sharepoint.com/sites/WhoWeAre/SitePages/answering-parliamentary-questions.aspx>

Annex C

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Sent: 17 April 2025 14:18
To: Orlando Mason <Orlando.Mason@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: Oral PQ to clear - due Tuesday

Orlando

I have attached a draft answer for the Jeremy Balfour oral which is due to PO at noon on Tuesday.

Grateful if you could please clear to allow me to send to Erin.

Thanks, Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Education Workforce Unit
Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division
Area 2B North, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex D

From: Orlando Mason <Orlando.Mason@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 April 2025 17:04
To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: RE: Oral PQ to clear - due Tuesday

That's fine for me, Redacted under 38(1)(a), thank you.

Just for my understanding, I Redacted under 30(b)(ii)

O

Annex E

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Sent: 18 April 2025 09:29
To: Orlando Mason <Orlando.Mason@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: RE: Oral PQ to clear - due Tuesday

Morning

Yes that's correct.

Thanks, Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Education Workforce Unit
Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division
Area 2B North, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex F

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Sent: 19 April 2025 17:41
To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: FW: Oral PQ to clear - due Tuesday

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Can you please copy Redacted under 38(1)(a) in when replying as I am on leave on Tuesday.

Thanks, Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Education Workforce Unit

Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division
Area 2B North, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex G

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Sent: 22 April 2025 10:17
To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a)
Subject: RE: Oral PQ to clear - due Tuesday

Okay to go PO thanks

Annex H

S6O-04575 – Jeremy Balfour

Q. To ask the Scottish Government what steps it can take to reduce the number of teachers on temporary contracts.

A. As the member will know, teacher employment practices are matters for local authorities as employers.

This Government values our teachers, and we are doing everything possible to help maximise the number of teaching jobs available, including permanent posts. As part of this we are providing local authorities with increased funding of £186.5 million this year, as part of our agreement with local government to restore teacher numbers to 2023 levels and maximise the number of teaching posts available.

It is encouraging to note that the number of teachers in permanent posts has remained stable at more than 80% over the past 10 years.

Background note

- Jeremy Balfour is the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party MSP for Lothian (Region)
- The recruitment and deployment of teachers, including recruitment practices, are matters for local authorities as the employer as they have the statutory duty for education expenditure and to deliver education.

Supplementary Q&A

Q. What actions is the Scottish Government taking to improve the recruitment and retention of teachers in Scotland?

A. The agreement we have with COSLA, will see Local Government and Scottish Government working together to restore teacher numbers to 2023 levels in 2025, as well as freezing learning hours and making meaningful progress on reducing class contact time for teachers.

As part of the agreement, we are providing an additional £41m on top of the £145.5m to local authorities in 2025-26 to help protect teacher numbers and maximise the number of teaching posts available.

We have also committed to working together on medium and long-term joint workforce planning, which will take into account the importance of responding to issues including different local needs.

I have also asked the Strategic Board for Teacher Education, which is made up of a range of key education stakeholders, to look at issues around the recruitment and retention of teachers in Scotland in detail.

This includes geographical and subject-specific issues, as well as how we can increase diversity within the profession and improve support for early career teachers.

In Scotland we have the most teachers-per-pupil in the UK, and school education spend per person is higher than England and Wales.

Q, How many teachers are currently on zero-hour contracts?

A. Teachers are not employed on zero-hour contracts. Supply lists are registers and are not contractual as there is no mutual obligation for the employer to offer work or for the teacher to accept.

The employment contract only begins once a teacher has taken up the supply work that is offered.

The appropriate use of temporary contracts is a legitimate feature of local authority recruitment practise and provides flexibility for schools and for teachers who are unable to commit to full time teaching.

Q. Why are more teachers being trained when teachers are struggling to get employment?

A. The Scottish Government undertakes an annual teacher workforce planning exercise at a national level to project the requirement for newly qualified teachers.

Consultation on the exercise takes place in partnership with key stakeholders, including universities, through the Teacher Workforce Planning Advisory Group (TWPAG).

The Teacher Workforce Planning Annual Exercise uses a model to estimate the number of ITE students required to maintain teacher numbers. The model is based on a number of inputs including projections about the number of pupils in the education system at primary and secondary ages, churn in teacher numbers (recruitment, maternity, returners, etc) and the retention rates of ITE students.

The intake targets for primary PGDE were reduced by 200 in 2023/24 in recognition of the challenges primary teachers are having in securing permanent contracts. Further reductions are planned this year, with consideration to be given to the level of any further reductions for the 2026/27 academic year.

Q. What is the Scottish Government doing to help Newly Qualified teachers into employment?

A. Local councils are responsible for the recruitment and deployment of their staff. This includes providing a complement of teachers which best meets the needs of each of their schools and its pupils within the resources available. Teaching posts should be advertised and filled in a fair and transparent manner.

The Teacher Induction Scheme provides a one-year probationary placement to allow teachers to meet the Standard for Full Registration.

Whilst we cannot direct teachers where to work, we will continue to do everything we can to maximise the number of jobs available for teachers, including permanent posts.

Redacted under Section 30(c) – Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs

Annex I

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a) **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: 23 April 2025 18:01

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Cc: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Subject: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Thanks for your help so far on the above portfolio question. To confirm Mr Dey is content with the answer.

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Many thanks

Kind regards

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)|Private Secretary | Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans.

Redacted under 38(1)(a), St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Ms Gilruth's Ministerial Preferences can be found [here](#)

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Annex J

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)**On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: 23 April 2025 18:36

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Cc: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>; Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Just to add to this, please could you provide strong lines on the following? Redacted under 30(b)(i)

Many thanks,

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Private Secretary to the Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans – Graeme Dey MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Mob: Redacted under 38(1)(a)| **Email:** MinisterHFEV@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



Annex K

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 09:52

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: FW: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Morning

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Education Workforce Unit

Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division

Area 2B North, Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex L

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 10:05

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Redacted under 30(b)(ii)

Redacted under 38(1)(a) | Head of the Education Workforce Unit | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government

Tel: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex M

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 10:07

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Redacted under 38(1)(a) and I have discussed. We will send you edits.

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Education Workforce Unit

Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division

Area 2B North, Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex N

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 10:16

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Thanks both

I've made a few wee changes below.

Redacted under 30(b)(ii)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex O

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 10:22

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Redacted under 30(b)(ii)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Education Workforce Unit

Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division

Area 2B North, Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex P

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 10:31

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Thanks both. A few changes suggested below. Redacted under 30(b)(ii)

Thanks

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Since 2018 the number of teachers in Scotland's schools has increased by over 1,500 - thanks to direct investment from the Scottish Government.

Further to the progress we have already made, in December of last year we reached a joint agreement with COSLA focused on reaffirming our commitment to delivering improved outcomes in education, including protecting teacher numbers.

Redacted under 38(1)(a) | Head of the Education Workforce Unit | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government

Tel: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Annex Q

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 10:38

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a) Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>; Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office
Redacted under 30(b)(i)

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Teacher Pay, Conditions and Stakeholder Engagement Team

Education Workforce Unit | Workforce, Infrastructure and Digital Division |

Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh

Redacted under 38(1)(a)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Civil Service
Dyslexia & Dyspraxia
Network

#IAMD

YSLEXIC

Annex R

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 10:57

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a) Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>; Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Okay thanks

Annex S

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Sent: 24 April 2025 11:01

To: Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Hi Redacted under 38(1)(a)

As requested, Q8 Supplementary below cleared by Erin.

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Redacted under 30(b)(i)

Annex T

From: Redacted under 38(1)(a) **On Behalf Of** Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

Sent: 24 April 2025 11:45

To: Redacted under 38(1)(a) Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans <MinisterHFEV@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Subject: RE: Supp - Portfolio Question - Q8 - PQ S6O-04575 - 24042025

Redacted: s. 29 Ministerial communications/operation of Ministerial private office

Redacted under 38(1)(a)

Redacted under 38(1)(a) Private Secretary to the Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans – Graeme Dey MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Mob: Redacted under 38(1)(a) | **Email:** MinisterHFEV@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

