



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

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16 June 2017

School infrastructure inquiry

Dear Janet

You may be aware that the Education and Skills Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into school infrastructure in light of the January 2016 incident at Oxgangs Primary School in Edinburgh and the publication of the [Cole report](#) earlier this year.

As part of this inquiry, the Committee invited evidence from the Scottish Building Federation (SBF) both in writing and in person. The SBF expressed concerns about the SQA's recent consolidated assessment strategy associated with SVQ Level 3 craft apprenticeship qualifications and suggestions that there will be an SVQ Level 2 craft qualification in the future.

In its written submission, the SBF stated that the "proposals put forward by SQA and CITB will inevitably jeopardise these overriding objectives and make it much more difficult to fulfil the recommendations of the Cole report." Paul Mitchell, Scottish Building Apprenticeship & Training Council Registrar and Head of Employment Affairs at the SBF appeared at the Committee on Wednesday and elaborated on these concerns. Attached is a link to the Official Report of the meeting:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11009>

In addition attached is a link to the SBF's submission which provides further background on the issues raised:

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Education/Inquiries/20170606ES.SBF.pdf

I am keen that the Committee hears the view of the SQA on the comments of the SBF and whether the SQA will take account of the findings of the Cole report in the craft qualifications that it develops and accredits.

I would be grateful if you could reply to this letter by Thursday 22 June, if possible. I am aware that this is a short deadline, however, it is to ensure that the Committee has your response in time for the Committee's final evidence session with the Scottish Government on 28 June 2017. If this deadline causes any difficulty, please contact the clerks to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

JAMES DORNAN MSP
CONVENER