



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

Sarah Beale
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By email

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16 June 2017

School infrastructure inquiry

Dear Ms Beale

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 Oxfangs 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 craft apprenticeship qualifications.

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 14th June and elaborated on these concerns. I will ensure that the Official Report of the meeting is forwarded to your office once it is published – this is a word for word record of what was discussed.

<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 CITB on the comments of the SBF and how the CITB will take account of the findings of the Cole report in its work.

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 on the above number.

Yours sincerely

**JAMES DORNAN MSP
CONVENER**