



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

John Swinney MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

By email

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29th December 2019

Dear Mr Swinney

I am writing to update you on the Committee's second consideration of Petition PE1692 which as you know is calling for a public inquiry into the human rights impact of GIRFEC policy and data processing. The Committee considered your letter dated 22 August 2019; correspondence from the Information Commissioner's Office, and a further submission from the petitioners sharing their perspective on these responses.

As you are aware the Committee had agreed to await the outcome of the work of the GIRFEC Practice Development Panel before considering the petition for a second time as the recommendations of the Panel would impact on information sharing practices going forward. During its second consideration the Committee noted your letter informing the Committee of the withdrawal of the Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill. The letter states that:

I have asked my officials to develop a suite of products to support and promote good, proportionate and appropriate information sharing practice. This will include practical guidance to set out in a clear and accessible way the principles under which services and practitioners will handle information to provide practitioners with the confidence they need to share concerns where appropriate and proportionate; and, children, young people and their parents with reassurance that their rights are being respected.

The Committee agreed that I should write to you to seek an update as to: when the suite of products referred to in your letter will be available; what they will consist of, and whether the Committee will be provided with copies of these products on their publication.

The Committee will consider the petition again in the New Year and I should be grateful for a response to this letter by Wednesday 29 January to inform this consideration,

Yours sincerely

CLARE ADAMSON MSP
CONVENER