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Convenor
Education and Skills Committee
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28 January 2020

Dear Clare,

Thank you for your letter of 29 December where you asked for further detail regarding the suite of products referenced in my letter of 19 September 2019.

In order to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of Scotland's children it is important that practitioners feel confident and able to share concerns, where appropriate, in a legally compliant way that respects the rights of everyone involved. In order to support them to do that and provide children, young people and their parents with reassurance that their rights are being respected my officials are developing a package of products based on shared principles around how services should handle sensitive personal information. This will help give children and families confidence that their rights will be respected as well as providing practitioners with additional confidence and clarity. An early outline of this work, which may be subject to future change, includes –

- **Learning Material** – We will develop material for practitioners to improve awareness and understanding regarding data sharing in the context of Getting it right for every child.
- **Refreshed Guidance** – The upcoming refresh of the Getting it right for every child practice guidance and the updated Child Protection guidance will both include guidance on information sharing issues.
- **Additional Support** – We will explore options to provide additional support to local data controllers to assist them in providing advice to front line staff as well as promoting best practice and shared understanding across the sectors.

These products are still in the early stages of development and we will continue to engage with our stakeholders, including practitioners and families, to better understand their needs and ensure that products are accessible, user friendly and support good practice.

We expect to publish these materials by the end of 2020 and the additional guidance will be subject to a consultation process.

JOHN SWINNEY

