

# Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills submission of 31 January 2024

## PE1953/G: Review Education Support staff roles

I am writing in response to your correspondence dated 8 January 2024, in relation to petition PE1953, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review Education Support (ES) staff roles.

You asked for an update on the Bute House Agreement commitment to: *Explore in collaboration with trade unions and other key stakeholders options for the development of an accredited qualification and registration programme for Additional Support Needs assistants, with final proposals being brought forward by Autumn 2023.*

Scottish Government officials intended to have the report ready for consideration by Ministers, followed by publication, in Autumn 2023. Unfortunately I am advised that this work has been delayed due to competing priorities within the portfolio. Officials are now working towards having the report ready for publication in the first quarter of 2024.

Officials have been working with the Exploration Group to progress this work. For example, they have engaged with officials in England and Wales on their approaches and hosted two online workshops in September 2023, drawing participation from approximately 80 stakeholders across 27 local authorities.

Education Scotland also undertook a national engagement programme for Pupil Support Staff. This attracted 2,500 survey responses from staff in all 32 local authorities. A final report was published on 31<sup>st</sup> July and can be found at: [Pupil Support Staff Engagement Programme 2022 - 2023 | Resources | Education Scotland](#). The outcomes of this engagement programme are helping to inform the work of the Exploration Group.

I will provide the Committee with a further update as this work progresses.

**JENNY GILRUTH MSP**