

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
Scottish Parliament

By email: ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

22 January 2024

Dear Sue

I am writing in follow up to my letter to you dated 19 December 2023, regarding the regulations that govern the process for placing requests for school admissions, and placing request and exclusion appeal hearings.

The letter explained our intention to hold a short consultation exercise to understand the views of stakeholders, parents, children and young people on whether the use of remote means in appeal hearings should become a permanent feature of the schools admission system.

I can confirm that the consultation commenced on 16 January 2024 lasting for eight weeks until 12 March 2024. As explained in my previous letter, we are consulting on the proposal to retain the option of holding school admission and exclusion appeal hearings remotely, and if so, whether there are any other amendments needed to how they are used. We are also seeking views on whether in-person appeal hearings should be the default, with remote hearings only possible if all parties agree (currently this only applies to the use of wholly written means for appeals).

If, following the consultation, changes to the relevant regulations are required, these will be taken forward in time for the 2025 school admissions round. The current regulations will remain in place for the upcoming 2024 schools admissions round.

I will keep you informed of the outcomes from the consultation and would welcome the Committee's comments on this matter.

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Yours sincerely,

JENNY GILRUTH

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