



Department for Education

2025-0033800

**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education**

Douglas Ross MSP
Convener, Education, Children and Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament
By email: ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

(November 2025

Dear Douglas,

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 June, regarding the Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding.

We are committed to minimising the use of restrictive interventions, including the use of force and seclusion, in all schools in England.

From February to April 2025, we held a 12-week public consultation on the draft 'Use of reasonable force and other restrictive interventions' guidance which sought views on how well schools are supported to:

- Meet the new statutory requirement to record every significant incident of use of force and report these incidents to the parents of the pupils involved;
- Proactively minimise the need to use reasonable force and other restrictive interventions through prevention, de-escalation and analysing data to support improvement planning;
- Support staff to understand when and how to use force or other restrictive interventions safely and lawfully;
- Support staff who work with pupils with special educational needs or disabilities; and
- Meet their safeguarding duties towards staff and pupils.

We are working on finalising this guidance taking the consultation feedback into account. This guidance will be non-statutory with statutory elements and will replace the existing 'Use of reasonable force' guidance from 2013 which currently remains in force.

We are also finalising the government response to the consultation and introducing statutory duties that will ensure schools record and report the use of force (including restraint) and seclusion to parents, to be published by the end of the autumn school term and come into force in April 2026. Schools will not be required to record or report data on the use of restraint or seclusion to my department. However, schools will be expected to make data on the use of any restrictive interventions available to Ofsted during inspections.

There are no specific training providers or programmes that my department endorses in relation to restraint and seclusion in schools. Decisions about staff training are made by schools.

Thank you for writing to me. I hope that this response is useful.

Yours,

Bridget

**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education**