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Douglas Ross MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament

26 June 2025

Dear Convener

Consultation on Support for Part-time Study and Disabled Students

I previously announced plans for a consultation on Support for Part-Time Study and Disabled Students when I appeared at committee during your enquiry on widening access to Higher Education on 5th March. I am now pleased to confirm that a consultation on this issue has been published today on the Citizen Space website and will remain open for responses until 9th October.

The consultation can be accessed via the following links –

- Citizen Space: Survey for students, potential students, parents and carers - <https://consult.gov.scot/lifelong-learning-and-skills/support-for-part-time-and-disabled-students>
- Citizen Space: Survey for the Higher Education and Further Education sector, training providers, third sector and interested organisations - <https://consult.gov.scot/lifelong-learning-and-skills/support-for-part-time-and-disabled-providers>

This will seek to capture a wide range of views on student support available for Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) part time and distance learning study; and also support available to disabled students undertaking FE and HE study.

This work is being taken forward as part of our continued commitment to ensure that all students who choose to study on a part-time or distance learning basis and students with a disability, can access the support needed while they study.

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My officials will also take forward engagement with key stakeholders, third sector and student representative bodies to ensure it captures a wide range of views. A key part of this will include qualitative research with part-time students and students with disabilities or additional support needs through a selection of focus groups.

Upon conclusion of the consultation and engagement, the findings will be subject to external analysis and thereafter I will consider its findings and next steps to ensure we continue to meet the needs of students at our institutions across Scotland.

I am also sending a letter to inform the Convener of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee of this consultation and plans for engagement.

Your sincerely,

GRAEME DEY MSP
Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans

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