

Douglas Ross MSP  
Convener Education, Children and Young People Committee

ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

19 December 2025

Dear Convener,

I am writing to advise the Committee that the Scottish Government has now updated the sections of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 Guidance that cover Temporary Closures (previously referred to as “mothballing”). The guidance is available at: [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010: guidance - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/schools-consultation-scotland-act-2010-guidance/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx).

This update reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting local authorities in making clear, transparent decisions about temporary closures that safeguard educational benefit and maintain public confidence.

The revised guidance provides greater clarity on the circumstances in which temporary closure may be appropriate, sets out key factors for decision-making, and strengthens expectations for early engagement with parents, carers, pupils, and communities. It also includes recommendations for transparency and actions following a decision, such as maintaining buildings and monitoring demand.

These changes were informed by extensive engagement with stakeholders including local authority representative bodies, ADES and COSLA, HM Inspectors, and parent/rural schools representative groups, and aligns with our wider ambitions to support sustainable communities.

We have communicated the publication of the guidance to local authorities and relevant stakeholders. We will continue to monitor implementation and work collaboratively to ensure that the guidance supports effective practice.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee.

**Jenny Gilruth**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**