



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Education Children and Young People Committee

Humza Yousaf  
First Minister  
Scottish Government

cc. Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery,  
Health and Social Care  
cc. Minister for Children, Young People and  
Keeping the Promise

T3.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
Direct Tel: 0131 348 6225  
Fax: 0131 348 5600

[ecyp.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:ecyp.committee@parliament.scot)

19 April 2024

### Via E-mail

Dear First Minister

I write on behalf of the Education, Children and Young People Committee, of which I am Convener.

The recent publication of the Cass Review has brought to light significant concerns about the way in which trans, non-binary and gender questioning children and young people access gender identity services in England, and the evidence that underpins current practices.

The Committee recognises that there will undoubtedly be parallels between services in England and those currently provided to children and young people in Scotland. Clarity is urgently required as to how the Scottish Government intends to take forward the report's findings in a Scottish context.

The Committee is aware that this is an evolving situation and notes the changes to arrangements for new patients accessing puberty blocking medication in Scotland which were announced yesterday.

However, the Committee recognises that the report raises many other complex, and sometimes competing, children's rights considerations which require urgent exploration.

In addition to Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that children in Scotland should enjoy the right to "the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health", the issues raised by the Cass Review also touch upon a range of other rights, including, but not limited to, Article 2: the right to non-discrimination; Article 3: best interests; Article 6: right to life, survival and development; Article 12: the right to express a view; Article 13: freedom of expression; and Article 16: the right to privacy.

The Committee believes a comprehensive Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment should be undertaken to ensure these matters are explored fully and to ensure the rights of all children and young people across Scotland are safeguarded.

Further, the Committee believes that a clear timeline should be provided for a Scottish response to the Cass review, so that children and young people, parents/carers and clinicians can be reassured that the significant issues raised by Dr Cass will be fully considered and acted upon in Scotland without delay.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Webber', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Sue Webber MSP**  
**Convener**