

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Education and Skills
John Swinney MSP



Scottish Government
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Your ref: Implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
Our ref: 2017/0030578
15 September 2017

Ms Scott,

Thank you very much for your letter of 22 August 2017 in which you enquired on behalf of Aberdeen City Council around financial support to implement Parts 10-14 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

In your letter you outlined your concerns around the agreed funding for and costs of implementing Parts 10-14 of the Act, and I hope that the following information is of help. This explains how funding was allocated and how the Scottish Government continues to monitor the implementation of our looked after children policies.

As you know the majority of funding to local authorities, including Aberdeen City Council, is provided by means of a block grant. It is the responsibility of each local authority to allocate the total financial resources available to it on the basis of local needs and priorities, having first fulfilled its statutory obligations and the jointly agreed set of national and local priorities including the Scottish Government's key strategic objectives and manifesto commitments.

Taking into account the 2017-18 local government finance settlement, including the extra £160 million announced at Stage 1 of the Budget Bill, plus the other sources of income available to councils through reforms to council tax and funding for Health and Social Care Integration, the overall increase in spending power to support local authority services now amounts to over £383 million (or 3.7%).

You will be aware that the funding allocation for individual local authorities, and specifically the methodology behind allocation of funding relevant to Parts 10-14 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act is detailed in full in the Financial Memorandum which accompanied the Bill:

[http://www.parliament.scot/S4_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b27s4-introd-en.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/S4_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b27s4-introd-en.pdf).

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Pages 59 – 78 of the Memorandum outline the potential costs to local authorities specific to Parts 10-14, in addition to costs relating to Part 9 (Corporate Parenting).

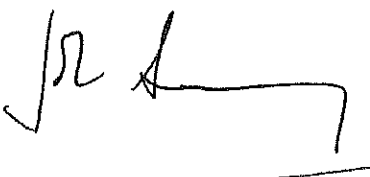
Analysis and estimates explained in the Memorandum originated from consultation responses to the Bill proposals and the draft Business Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA); as well as discussions with partners and stakeholders for whom there may be financial implications, or who may be affected as a result of the Bill. Responses were received from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA); individual local authorities; Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs); health boards; special health boards; the Association of Directors of Education (ADES); the Association of Directors of Social Work (ADSW); Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People; partner providers of early learning and childcare; independent schools and the third sector. Scottish Parliament Committees also considered extensive evidence from partners and stakeholders throughout the passage of the Bill. Evidence submitted to the Committees can be found at: <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/62233.aspx>.

I would like to reassure you that the Scottish Government monitors data on numbers and types of placements through the annual Children's Social Work Statistics publication 'Children Looked After in Scotland' (CLAS):

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>.

This provides the Scottish Government with actual numbers of young people eligible for and being supported by provisions set out in the 2014 Act. The Scottish Government works with local authorities continually to review data collections and agrees any changes to further collections and developments (e.g. proposals to collect new data or to stop collecting data).

I hope the above information is helpful, and thank you once again for taking the time to write to us.

Yours,


JOHN SWINNEY