

The First Minister
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

25 February 2020

Dear First Minister

Children and Young People's Panel on Europe meeting

Thank you for meeting with us on Monday, 3 February 2020. We were happy to share our work as members of the Children and Young People's Panel on Europe, and discuss what's important to us as the UK leaves the EU.

It is essential that the views of children and young people are heard, and taken into account in decisions that affect our lives and discussions about what kind of Scotland we want to live in. This is our right under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

We were pleased to be invited to this meeting and happy to hear you and the Minister for Children and Young People voice your support for our rights. We hope this meeting can be part of an ongoing conversation between government and the Panel, and with children and young people more widely.

The meeting allowed us to ask questions about a range of things that are important to us including protecting children's human rights, ensuring information about Brexit is accessible, participating in the Erasmus+ scheme, protecting important services like the NHS, replacing EU funding and ensuring high food safety and trading standards. We were pleased that some of your answers supported recommendations from our report *Listen to Us*. These answers included your commitment that the Scottish Government will do everything it can to make sure the UNCRC becomes law before May 2021, and will also try to stay part of Erasmus+ as far as possible.

We know that some of our questions were difficult to answer because things are still unclear or because specific powers lie with the UK Government. We were happy that you said the Scottish Government will share more information once things become clearer. We hope that you will share this information directly with the Panel in an accessible way, supporting our right to information under the UNCRC.

As agreed with you at the meeting, we have included some extra questions that we didn't get a chance to raise. We hope you can provide us with

information that will help us understand what the Scottish Government is doing or planning to do:

- How do you plan to make sure that children and young people get accessible information on Brexit and other constitutional issues? Does the Scottish Government have specific plans to educate children and young people on this?
- Is there a chance that funding for education might be cut as a result of Brexit?

We also wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that over the next few months we want to work with decision-makers to make sure our recommendations are taken forward, ensuring that the needs of children and young people are met as we exit the EU. As part of this work we hope to meet with decision-makers who can help answer our questions and implement our recommendations where possible. These discussions will cover the four areas of our work:

- Opportunities to work, study and travel
- EU funding
- The economy, trade and jobs
- Children and young people's rights.

We would greatly appreciate if you were able to help us contact the relevant people and ask them to meet with us. We would really like it if they were able to come to us and work with us in a way that makes us feel informed, comfortable and involved.

Once again, we appreciate that you took the time to speak with us directly and listen to our views – this made us feel that we were being taken seriously and that our opinions mattered. We look forward to hearing not only how our views will be taken into account, and influence the Scottish Government's work, but also about further opportunities to discuss these issues with decision-makers. We hope you will continue to champion children and young people's rights and make sure children and young people are continuously involved in decision-making that affects our lives.

We are excited to hear from you!

Best wishes,

The Children and Young People's Panel on Europe

Aaron, Alex, Bailey-Lee, Beccie, Nongee, Tracey, Hope, Gavin, Isla, Lana, Jack, Kurby, Rio, Soroush, Angus, Tamsin, Jodi, Oscar, Calum, Malika and Julia