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Dear Stephen

I am writing to inform the Committee of a change to the timescale for publishing the next iteration of the Additional Support for Learning Act Plan.

As the Committee is aware, in November 2021, the Scottish Government and COSLA published an [updated action plan](#) and [progress report](#) setting out the progress that has been made to deliver the measures in the [ASL Action Plan](#). Within this, we indicated that we would work closely with our partners in the [Additional Support for Learning Implementation Group](#) (ASLIG) to review the current action plan, take stock of what has been achieved and agree the priorities for the future to ensure that meaningful change is realised for children and young people. We indicated that an updated action plan would be published in Spring 2022.

As part of this work, we have sought to re-engage with our partners in ASLIG and with wider stakeholders, including children and young people and their parents and carers. This is critically important to ensure that their voices are heard and inform the priorities for continued delivery of the ASL Action Plan. However, due to the continuing and fluid COVID-19 situation, we have been sensitive to the pressures on families and professionals and the impact these circumstances have had on their capacity to support re-engagement work. With the agreement of ASLIG, and to support the meaningful engagement that is necessary, we have agreed to take further time to ensure that we fully consider the feedback from our stakeholders as we develop the next iteration of the action plan. We now intend to publish this in September 2022.

I would like to assure the Committee that this change will not impact the overall delivery of this work and it remains a key priority for the Scottish Government and COSLA.

Committee may also be interested to note that to ensure continued and careful monitoring of delivery of this work, we have strengthened the governance arrangements that are in place through the establishment of the ASL Project Board. This group, jointly chaired by the Scottish Government and COSLA, will monitor implementation and oversee delivery of additional support for learning and inclusion policy through the ASL Action Plan and its

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associated workstreams. The function and membership of ASLIG will transfer to the Project Board and the group are expected to meet for the first time in June 2022.

I hope this update is helpful to the Committee.

**SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE**

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