

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Sue Webber MSP  
Convener  
Education, Children and Young People Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

**By e-mail**

06 September 2022

Dear Sue

I am writing to inform you about the meetings of the Education Ministers Council, one of the Intergovernmental Ministerial Groups (IMGs) created under the new arrangements set out in the [Review of Intergovernmental Relations](#).

There have been two meetings of the Education Ministers Council to date.

The first was a virtual meeting held on 27 January 2022, chaired by the Rt. Hon. Nadhim Zahawi MP, then Secretary of State for Education in the UK Government. I attended this meeting as did Alex Burghart MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills in the UK Government, Jeremy Miles AS/MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language in the Welsh Government, and Michelle McIlveen MLA, Minister for Education, and Heather Cousins, Deputy Permanent Secretary to the Department for the Economy, from the Northern Ireland Executive. The communiqué from the first meeting can be found [here](#).

The second was held on 17 June 2022 which I chaired and was hosted by the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute. Also attending were Mr Zahawi, Mr Miles, Ms McIlveen and Ms Cousins. The communiqué from the second meeting can be found [here](#).

In keeping with protocol for these meetings and respecting confidentiality, I am unable to provide more details about those meetings than set out in the published communiqués. I am sure you will appreciate the value of being able to have free and frank conversations between the four nations.

The third meeting is due to be chaired by the Welsh Government in the autumn. I will write to you to advise you further as soon as I have more details.

I apologise for the delay in informing the Committee of these meetings. I trust this is a helpful update.

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**Sincerely**

**Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP**

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



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