

Sue Webber MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament

28 October 2022

Dear Convener,

I wrote to you on 20 July to confirm that the Digital Government (Disclosure of Information) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 were laid in the UK Parliament on Friday 15 July 2022.

These Regulations create the legal gateway that will allow the creation of a data sharing agreement between Scottish Government and Scottish local authorities and DWP and HMRC, with the objective to inform households with a 2 year old that they meet eligibility criteria for access to funded early learning and childcare.

[I can now advise that the Regulations have been debated in the Houses of Parliament and came in to force from 27 October 2022. More information can be found here: Timeline - SI 2022 - Statutory Instruments - UK Parliament](#)

The creation of the legal gateway is an important milestone towards supporting as many families as possible to benefit from the expansion of 1140 hours of high quality early learning and childcare that came into force from August 2021. During its passage through Parliament, my team has continued to work with UK Government and Scottish partners to ensure agreements and mechanisms are in place as soon as possible to share the necessary data with local authorities. Now that the legal gateway is in place, that work can proceed towards completion and we aim to be in a position that data will be available to Scottish local authorities before the end of the 2022-23 financial year. In the meantime we are working with the Improvement Service and local authorities on a programme of business readiness so they are prepared to receive and make best use of the data.

I would like to thank the Committee for their continued interest in and support for this work and I look forward to updating the Committee on this work as it progresses further.

Yours sincerely

Clare Haughey

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