



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

Councillor Tony Buchanan
Spokesperson for Children and Young
People
COSLA

Via email

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26 September 2023

Dear Tony,

You will be aware that, at its [meeting last week](#), the Committee took evidence from—

- Dr Douglas Hutchison, in his role as President of ADES,
- Carrie Lindsay, Executive Officer at ADES, and
- Kirsty Flanagan, Director of Finance, Argyll and Bute Council, representing CIPFA Local Government Directors of Finance (Scotland).

Following the session, the Committee agreed to write to COSLA to request information regarding—

- its understanding of how the Verity House agreement will work in practice, and whether any ring-fenced funds or directed funds will go into the general grant for 2024-25;
- its view on the impact of the delay of the UK Government's Autumn Statement and how it may affect local authorities' abilities to take decisions in respect of their own budgets;
- how local authorities are preparing to deal with the RAAC situation, including how they intend to fund any necessary work; and
- its feedback on the Local Financial Return guidance in relation to how local authorities record ASN and any other comments on how to track spending on ASN (Members have noted that in LFR data for 2021/22, 15 councils recorded a £0 spend on ASN outside of special schools).

The Official Report of the meeting has now been [published](#).

The Committee would appreciate a response by **Monday 16 October 2023**.

Yours sincerely

Sue Webber MSP
Convener