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28th October 2024

Dear Convenor,

I wish to make the Committee aware that the public consultation about the future of foster care in Scotland was recently opened and is now live on the Scottish Government's website and consultation portal. The links to both are below:

Future of Foster Care Consultation - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

Future of foster care consultation - Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space

The consultation seeks to set out a new vision for foster care in Scotland aligned to The Promise and fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The consultation also sets out areas of work to be taken forward at a national level to improve the day to day practice of fostering in Scotland.

The public consultation is open for 15 weeks, from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025. We also have plans in place to do a number of consultation engagement events where we hope to speak to a variety of stakeholders including children and young people and foster carers.

I hope that this information is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

## **Natalie Don-Innes**

Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

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