



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration
Committee

Liz Smith CBE MSP
Scottish Parliament

13 November 2024

Dear Kenneth

Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill – Finance and Public Administration Committee scrutiny of Financial Memorandum

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence to the Finance and Public Administration Committee on Tuesday 19 November on the Financial Memorandum accompanying my Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill. I look forward to attending this session, and discussing these matters with the committee. I will be accompanied by Neil Stewart, Senior Clerk in the Non-Government Bills Unit.

As you know, I am acutely aware of the important work that the committee does in relation to its scrutiny of Financial Memoranda. In this respect, it has been helpful for me to consider the submissions the committee has received, along with the evidence currently being taken by the Education, Children and Young People Committee. I am grateful for the time respondents have taken to consider my Bill and to engage with both committees.

As you will be aware, a few respondents have raised points in relation to projected costs in the Financial Memorandum accompanying my Bill which seeks to establish a reasonable range of best estimate costs based on the available data. I appreciate a number of stakeholders have commented where they consider the FM has underestimated particular costs and I look forward to discussing this matter with the Committee.

In this regard, I am aware the Committee may well seek to explore the methodology and the available data used in assessing, for example: provision for pupils with additional support needs; staffing costs, transport and ancillary costs; and the impact of inflation on the cost of residential outdoor education. I will be

happy to discuss all these aspects as well as my suggestions for ensuring the Bill can be adequately funded.

I look forward to discussing these matters further on Tuesday 19 November.

Yours sincerely

Liz Smith CBE MSP