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Murdo Fraser MSP
Convener
COVID-19 Committee
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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22 June 2020

Dear Murdo

Coronavirus Act 2020: Provision covering Duty of Local Authorities to Assess Needs

During the questions in the Chamber on 9 June following my statement on the first two monthly report on the Coronavirus Acts, Monica Lennon MSP asked to be provided with a list of the Local Authorities that have used the legislation under sections 16 and 17 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, relating to Local Authority needs assessments. Ms Lennon also asked which Local Authorities had not replied to the survey which is referred to on page 57 of the above noted report.

I undertook to provide the COVID-19 Committee with information on the Local Authorities that had used the powers, and to obtain information from the Local Authorities that had not replied to the survey.

The information Ms Lennon requested is as follows.

Following liaison with COSLA and Social Work Scotland, a survey was issued to Chief Social Work Officers to identify the use of the powers over the period from commencement of the powers on 5 April 2020 until 16 May 2020.

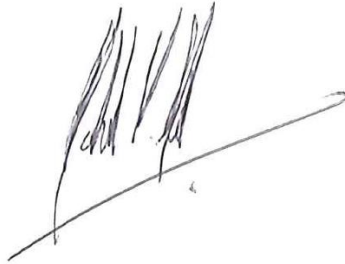
At this time, and as is reflected in the report to Parliament, responses had been received from 26 Local Authorities/Health and Social Care Partnership areas. Of these, Dundee, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, Clackmannanshire and Stirling and South Lanarkshire indicated that they had used the powers.

As per my response to Ms Lennon in Chamber, Argyll and Bute, Falkirk, Highland, Inverclyde, and Scottish Borders had not responded to the survey. I am pleased to say that they have now responded.

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In responding, these authorities indicated that they had not used the powers under the legislation in the reporting period.

I hope that the Committee finds this information helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Russell', written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL RUSSELL

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