



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee

Damien Yeates,
Chief Executive,
Skills Development Scotland

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Sent by email only

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8 July 2020

Dear Mr Yeates,

COVID-19: enterprise and skills agencies

The Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee is continuing its [inquiry](#) on COVID-19 and has agreed to focus its future work on four key strands:

- Impact on businesses and workers as lockdown eases;
- Impact on young people;
- Role of the enterprise agencies and SNIB;
- Plans for economic recovery (including scrutiny of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery report).

The Committee has also agreed that COVID-19 will be the focus of its budget scrutiny this year.

To help inform this work, the Committee would welcome further information from Skills Development Scotland on the following areas:

- Any information you are able to provide on SDS budget information and spending plans (and how they have changed in light of COVID-19);
- Whether you plan to change your strategic plan in light of COVID-19, and if so, timescales for this;
- How are you adapting to the potential impacts on young people?
- Whether you have sufficient resource to meet these challenges over the coming months and years.
- How SDS works with other agencies and local authorities to ensure support for young people is delivered effectively and efficiently.

As you may be aware, as a result of the last recession youth unemployment in Scotland rose to around 22% (in 2011-12). It is crucial that young people are equipped with the skills and opportunities they need to navigate the labour market in these challenging times. The Committee would also welcome any other key information which you feel is important to the Committee's work on COVID-19.

The Committee will consider your response before seeking to hold an oral evidence session after the summer recess. The clerks will be in touch with a suggested date for this session.

I would be grateful to receive a response to the above points by 31 July.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Ballantyne', with a small flourish at the end.

Michelle Ballantyne MSP
Convener