



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

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Dear John,

Scottish National Standardised Assessments

Budget scrutiny

As you will be aware, as part of the revised budget process, subject committees are integrating budget scrutiny into their inquiry work throughout the parliamentary year. On that basis I am writing to you to seek information to inform the Committee's current inquiry into Scottish National Standardised Assessments.

I should be grateful if you could provide the Committee with information on the cost of establishing SNSAs and running costs. The Committee would be interested in: the overall costs of developing the assessments; initial training costs; and anticipated recurring training costs. Other recurring costs for the delivery of assessments would also be of interest such as the cost of: reviewing previous years' assessments, disseminating information, publishing results (assuming this is to be done annually) and developing future years' assessments. Furthermore, the cost and nature of any planned work to raise awareness of SNSAs with stakeholders such as parents would be appreciated as would any costs associated with ACEL.

The above may not be an exhaustive list so additional details of any other costs that you are aware of would also be welcome. In addition, the Committee would appreciate any indicative costs of the upcoming review into P1 assessments.

As much detail as you can provide on specific funding allocations to different bodies would also be appreciated. For example, please could you provide a breakdown of any funding allocations to ACER UK, Education Scotland, SCHOLAR and education authorities.

In relation to the outcomes anticipated from the SNSAs, the Committee notes that the submission provided by the Scottish Government to the inquiry details the National Improvement Framework. In addition, reference was made in evidence by ACER UK on 9 January to plans to seek teacher views through a questionnaire as part of ACER's evaluation work. To supplement this evidence, the Committee would appreciate details of any additional plans to evaluate the impact of SNSAs and the timescales for such work.

Data literacy

Turning to Wednesday's evidence session on SNSAs the Committee discussed the content of Initial Teacher Education. The witnesses suggested that they were not aware that Initial Teacher Education courses include training on data literacy and assessment. There was also an associated discussion on the entry requirements for teaching courses in terms of numeracy.

As you will recall the Committee, in its *Report on Teacher Workforce Planning for Scotland's Schools*, raised the issue of entry requirements for teacher training and also the extent to which ITE course content includes elements aimed at developing a trainee's numeracy skills. The Government is due to update the Committee at the end of January on progress towards implementation of its report recommendations from 2016 onwards. The element of the response on workforce planning, including ITE recommendations, will be useful reference for the SNSA inquiry.

The relevant exchange with Dr Keir Bloomer, Professor Lindsay Paterson and Professor Louise Hayward is at the end of the [Official Report](#) of Wednesday's evidence taking session.

The Committee would appreciate it if you could provide details in your response of the extent to which ITE currently covers data literacy and assessment, and whether there is any work being undertaken centrally to ensure the skills required to interpret data generated by SNSAs is covered in ITE.

In order to inform the Committee's evidence session with you, I would appreciate a response by Wednesday 13 February,

Yours sincerely

CLARE ADAMSON MSP
CONVENER