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By email

Shirley-Anne Somerville  
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
Scottish Government

20 September 2021

Shirley-Anne Somerville a charaid

Your Reference: 202100211823

We are writing in response to your letter of 15 July 2021 regarding parental concerns over the establishment of a Gaelic medium education high school in Edinburgh.

We understand that you have met with the Convenor and Vice Convenor of City of Edinburgh Council's Education Committee and we fully support the pausing of the statutory consultation while further analysis on alternative sites is conducted.

We welcome the remarks in your letter offering support "to ensure good progress is made both with SG commitments and CEC ambitions". Given the specific commitments given in the SNP manifesto for a "stand-alone GME secondary school in the centre of Edinburgh", families expect such an option to become available for their consideration.

We are pleased to see the Government's continuing commitment in the 2021/22 Programme for Government to "develop a new national strategic approach" to GME. We would welcome further information on what this strategic approach might mean to families in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Please also find attached our recent letter to the Convenor and Vice Convenor outlining a number of outstanding issues that are of concern to families.

This is a crucial, strategic decision for the future of GME in the capital. We completely agree that our shared aim is to promote and support the establishment, maintenance and growth of Gaelic medium education in Edinburgh and the Lothians, and we welcome your necessary practical support to achieve a high quality provision which meets with parents' long established [vision](#) and [priorities](#) for a GME high school.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd

Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann is Lodainn)

Copy to

Shona MacLennan, CEO, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Gayle Gorman, CEO, Education Scotland

Ben Macpherson, MSP