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Cllr Ian Perry, Convenor

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14 December 2021

Dear Councillor Perry

Thank you for your e-mail of 10 December in connection with a site for a Gaelic medium school in Edinburgh. I welcome this ongoing exchange and look forward to a resolution of these discussions. I note and welcome your reference to a feasibility study and, as you are aware, the Scottish Government would be happy to support this approach.

I believe a feasibility study would provide a clear picture and assessment of the options. The feasibility study would also assist with the decision making process and, as such, it would be premature for the Scottish Government to indicate any financial commitment to one particular option in advance of a study being carried out.

I note your request for financial support for the Royal Victoria site. I am aware, however, that significant questions remain both about the cost, viability and availability of the Royal Victoria site in the timescales needed. These are important questions and again the proposal of a feasibility study would provide the necessary clarity on this and other options and would assist with decision making.

As mentioned in my previous letter more detail would assist with our internal financial processes and at present, as a result of the lack of detail and the high level of uncertainty attached to the Royal Victoria site, we are not able to comment either way on this particular site.

I would be grateful if you could continue to keep me and my officials informed of the next steps that the Council decides to pursue in terms of possible sites, including plans for any consultation.

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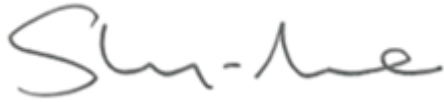
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As I stated in my previous letter, I would be happy to meet with you and relevant officials to discuss this further.

I hope this is helpful.



Shirley-Anne Somerville

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