

Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

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Sarah Thomas

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Our Reference: 202500460289

Your Reference: Fostering Network's key priorities

9 May 2025

Dear Sarah Thomas,

Thank you for your letter dated 2nd April 2025 about the Promise Bill and foster care.

I am very grateful for the support The Fostering Network have given to the Scottish Government, particularly around the Future of Foster Care consultation. I know you arranged all of the consultation engagement events for foster carers, which importantly helps ensure foster carers voices are informing our next steps in foster care, and I found it really helpful to hear first hand their views at an event in Renfrewshire.

I am also delighted that The Fostering Network will be delivering the national recruitment support line for the foster care campaign, and I know you have been a key stakeholder helping to share the national campaign.

Turning to the Promise Bill, as you know, I have committed to introducing a Bill into the Scottish Parliament by the end of this parliamentary session, taking the opportunity to make the legislative changes required to keep the Promise by 2030.

The areas you outlined in your letter were covered in our consultation on foster care, or within the review of the Scottish Recommended Allowance currently underway. Both of these areas are informing what will be in the Bill where it is appropriate. In some cases, legislative change will be the right approach, and in others there may be more suitable ways to achieve the same objective, such as guidance.

You will appreciate it is not appropriate for me to comment on what will be in the Promise Bill ahead of introduction to Parliament, but please be assured I am considering your suggestions carefully.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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I know my officials remain in close and regular contact with you, and I have asked them to ensure you are informed, as soon as it is possible, about the content of the Bill. In the meantime, thanks once again for everything The Fostering Network does to support foster carers, and I look forward to continuing our fruitful relationship, and seeing you at Foster Care Fortnight next month.

Yours sincerely,



NATALIE DON-INNES

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