

Dear Cabinet Secretary

I write to you following two meetings of the SNCT Sub Group on reduction of class contact time, held on 12 and 20 June 2025.

For your reference, this Sub Group was established following a request from the Teachers' Side of the SNCT in order to receive reports on the work of the joint COSLA/Scottish Government working group referenced in your letters of 24 February and 5 March 2025 addressed to me as Teachers' Side Joint Chair.

The terms of reference of the joint working group state that its work should be finalised and presented to SNCT by the end of June 2025, at the latest. This is confirmed in your letter of 24 February, where you state that you expect the outputs of this work to be finalised and presented to SNCT by no later than the end of June 2025.

It was with dismay, therefore, that at the meeting of the SNCT Sub Group on 20 June 2025 that the Teachers' Side was informed by COSLA that no report would be presented to the SNCT at the meeting scheduled for 25th June- the last possible point that the SNCT can convene before the end of this month. contrary to the terms of reference. This dismay was further compounded by the fact that the Scottish Government appeared to offer no view or contrition on this failure to act in line with terms of reference that it previously agreed with COSLA, or indeed, with the timescales that you had previously set out to me.

For reasons that I am sure you can appreciate, in the context of a formal dispute, the position of both COSLA and the Scottish Government is completely unacceptable to the Teachers' Side. Such apparent lack of commitment to deliver on assurances will only serve to further undermine the teaching profession's confidence in the Scottish Government's and their employers', capacity to take seriously the critical need to address the unsustainable workload of teachers in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Des Morris
SNCT Joint Secretary
(Teachers' Side)