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Des Morris
SNCT Teachers' Panel
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24 February 2025

Dear Des,

As you know, the agreement reached between the Scottish Government and COSLA in December reaffirmed our joint commitment to delivering improved educational outcomes for children and young people. That deal, reached in good faith, commits us to working together to restore teacher numbers to 2023 levels, freeze learning hours and to make meaningful progress towards reducing class contact time for teachers. To support the delivery of these measures, the Scottish Government is increasing the funding available to Local Government to £186.5 million in 2025-26 as well as providing a further £29m to support additional support needs in our schools, through specialist staff provision.

I am clear that reducing class contact time for teachers will help address critical concerns around teacher workload, thereby creating the space to drive improvement and reform in our schools, whilst improving outcomes for our children and young people. I know this an ambition shared by teaching unions and in that context I am keen that we make rapid progress towards developing a plan for implementation.

As you know, COSLA Leaders met on 31 January where they confirmed that local government is keen to work with Scottish Government to make meaningful progress towards reducing class contact time for teachers, as per our budget agreement.

Scottish Government officials are working at pace alongside senior COSLA officers to secure progress on the fastest possible pace of implementation, with the aim of developing a clear route map to full implementation on reduced class contact on this important commitment. I believe it is essential that the development of this route map is informed by the views of our teaching trade union partners.

I expect the outputs of this work to be finalised and presented to COSLA Leaders, Ministers and the SNCT as soon as possible, but by no later than the end of June 2025.

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I know that you share our aspiration to make meaningful progress on this key issue, to the benefit of Scotland's teaching workforce.

Yours sincerely,



JENNY GILRUTH MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

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