



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

Peter Reekie
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Via E-mail

Dear Mr Reekie

You may be aware the Education, Children and Young People are currently undertaking an inquiry into the provision of additional support for learning. You can read more about the inquiry here—

[Additional Support for Learning \(ASL\) | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

The Committee has heard that the design of the school estate is not always supporting the delivery of inclusive education, particularly for pupils with sensory needs. For example, a number of responses to the Committee's call for views highlighted the move to larger campuses as being problematic, along with open plan learning environments and the acoustics where schools have too many hard surfaces. Another issue raised in evidence at Committee on 28 February 2024 was around buildings that may not have a sufficient range and quantity of spaces, such as smaller rooms where children and young people with additional support needs are able to relax.

The Committee understands that the Scottish Futures Trust is the expert body in Scotland for the public sector in developing infrastructure and is a crucial partner in the Scottish Government's Learning Estate Investment Programme.

The Committee would be grateful to know how the SFT supports local authorities to ensure that any new schools or refurbishments are designed to support the learning for pupils with additional support needs, particularly those children and young people with sensory needs.

The Committee would be grateful if you could provide this information by **Thursday 15 March 2024**, if possible.

Yours sincerely
Sue Webber MSP, Convener