



Pete Wishart MP
Chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee
UK Parliament

Dear Pete Wishart MP,

We are writing to you to thank you again for taking evidence from representatives of Scotland's young people. Hearing our views is, we hope, only the first step, but we are grateful to you for taking the time in your busy schedules to do so.

We would be grateful if you could also pass this letter onto the other Members of the Scottish Affairs Committee.

Following the session, we wrote a blog for the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) website called "[It's Giving Evidence: Our Trip to London](#)", in which we outlined the topics we discussed and each of our favourite parts of the experience. In that blog, Ewan wrote:

"The whole trip was a great experience, it was really great to have a tour of Westminster Palace and see it for the first time. But, of course, my favourite part was speaking to the committee, we are all so passionate about what we were discussing and to share that with MPs was amazing."

As well as a brilliant experience for us individually, we think it is important to remember why we were there - to represent the views of Scotland's young people on the issues that matter most to them. This is a role we all take very seriously, and we want to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points we made during our evidence to the Committee.

Speaking about young people's engagement in decision making - we encouraged all the Members of the Committee to consider engagement methods and approaches to reaching young people and to work with decision-makers across Scotland to improve citizenship education in our schools and communities.

On UNCRC incorporation and implementation, we want to reiterate the importance of pairing the legal protection of UNCRC incorporation - which needs to be brought in at a UK level to provide maximum protection - and the culture change required around children and young people's rights. Children, young people, and adults all need to better incorporate the UNCRC into their day to day lives. This is especially true though, for decision-makers like yourselves.

With your ongoing inquiry into the relationship between the Scottish & UK Government, we highlighted the need for them to better work together to give the UNCRC Incorporation Act maximum coverage in Scotland - something which requires both Governments agreeing to a change in approach. From speaking to experts, we know there are a number of ways to achieve this, such as legislating for UK wide incorporation or amending the Scotland Act.

We highlighted the Right to Food as one of the areas in which young people have suffered most in during the cost of living crisis. To address this, we need to see the UK and Scottish Government's working together to tackle cost of living, develop sustainable food systems, and reduce stigma associated with poverty and accessing support.

Finally, on the climate crisis, we want to reiterate the importance of the UK and Scotland fulfilling their international obligations to reduce emissions and support efforts for climate justice here and across the world. All decision-makers have a responsibility to work to achieve this.

At the end of our session we were delighted you made the offer to make this an annual event. While we understand the upcoming election will likely lead to changes in the make up of the Committee, we look forward to working with the Scottish Affairs Committee in the future to ensure you are incorporating the views of Scotland's young people into your work.

Yours sincerely,
Mollie McGoran MSYP
Ellie Craig MSYP
Abbie Wright MSYP
Ewan Knight MSYP
Olivia Brown MSYP