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Collette Wright
[redacted]

Our Reference: [redacted]
Your Reference: Speak For Them

2 November 2026

Dear Collette,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 8 October 2026 regarding the Four-Nation One Record Framework and the Unshaken Standard for Scotland.

The Scottish Government's commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Scotland's children and young people is a key priority. All children have the right to be loved, cared for and protected from harm, and to grow up in a safe environment in which their rights and needs are respected.

The Scottish Government published revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland on 31 August 2023. The guidance describes the responsibilities and expectations of everyone who works with children, young people and their families in Scotland. It was revised to ensure it is consistent with the legislative and policy framework and current practice developments.

All local authorities in Scotland are responsible for maintaining a central child protection register for all children who are the subject of an inter-agency Child Protection Plan. This includes unborn babies. The register has no legal status. This is an administrative system for alerting practitioners that there is sufficient professional concern about a child to warrant an inter-agency Child Protection Plan.

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland sets out the expectations when a child who is on the child protection register in Scotland moves to another local authority.

When families move between local authority areas the original local authority will notify the receiving authority immediately. A written notification must follow.

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The receiving local authority should immediately place the child's name on their local register. Where possible, the original local authority should advise how long the child is expected to stay in the area. The authorities should make each other aware when and why temporary registration is no longer required. Information pertinent to keeping a child safe must be shared. Where a Child Protection Plan is in place, the responsible authority for the child is, with few exceptions, the health board or local authority where the child resides.

Geographical moves are a time of accentuated stress and risk for children and families. Child Protection Planning Meetings (CPPMs) must be held to ensure proper transfer of information and responsibilities when a Child Protection Plan is currently in place. At the transfer CPPM, the minimum requirement for participation will be the originating local authority's social worker and manager and the receiving local authority social worker and their manager, as well as representatives from appropriate services including health and education.

I wish to reassure you that the same principles apply when a child moves across UK borders, and Scottish local authorities will share information with the family's new local authority if there are any concerns of risk of harm to the child.

In response to your concerns about offenders' identities, the Scottish Government takes the safety of the public very seriously and has a strong legal framework in place to manage the risks posed by offenders. For instance, All registered sex offenders living in the community in Scotland are subject to the Sex Offender Notification Requirements (SONR). These requirements apply to an individual irrespective of the name they use. Individuals subject to SONR are required to provide the police with specific details including date of birth, address, national insurance number, bank details and passport details.

In addition to this the Scottish Government worked with the UK Government to make legislative changes in the UK Crime and Policing Act 2026 around sex offender name change, including provisions which restrict application by a sex offender for replacement identity documents in a new name. Those identity documents are: immigration documents, passport and driving licence. Individuals are also required to inform the police should any of these details subsequently change or if they intend to travel outside of the country. It is an offence to fail to comply with these requirements as it is to knowingly make a false or misleading declaration for the purpose of obtaining a disclosure certificate from Disclosure Scotland, or to provide materially false information to the Registrar General in order to change one's name

Disclosure application forms include a question about previous names. If the applicant has ever been known by a previous name(s), they must include details of the name or names on the form. It is an offence to fail to accurately complete this information. Where there is doubt about a person's identity, Disclosure Scotland can ask for fingerprints or other verification documents to confirm the match. The application will be refused if an individual refuses to supply the required information.

In relation to disclosure of convictions by Disclosure Scotland, Level 2 disclosures with barred list check are available on prospective adopters (and anyone else aged 16+ residing in the household) and a Level 2 with PVG scheme membership must be obtained on foster carers. Disclosure Scotland accesses criminal history information from across the UK, not just Scotland.

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Level 2 disclosures can include certain “spent” (otherwise non-disclosable under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) convictions and non-conviction information from UK and overseas police forces for public protection purposes. The offences subject to an extended disclosure period are listed at schedules 1 and 2 of the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020. Information on how these convictions can be removed from a disclosure is available at Applying for a review of convictions on your disclosure - mygov.scot. This review process does not remove information from the Criminal History System or Police National Computer; it only applies to Level 2 disclosures with the same purpose to that disclosure.

Turning to your request for the Scottish Government to adopt the Unshaken standard for Scotland. As you have noted in your letter, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde had partnered with ICON in September 2025. All Scottish NHS Boards have now adapted and implemented the ICON programme, ensuring national coverage aimed at reducing abusive head trauma (AHT) in babies and supporting parents and carers to cope with normal infant crying.

The ICON preventative programme provides a range of training resources for professionals and resources for parents/care givers. The ICON touch points can include opportunities for Midwives, Health Visitors, Family Nurses, GPs, other professionals, within the antenatal period, hospital/at home following birth, transfer from Midwifery, 3 weeks post-natal as well as the 6/8 week contact with GP/HV/FN.

Each board area can decide on which “touch-points” they would want to roll out within their organisations, and what resources they would like to use, with the costs of ordering/printing materials down to the individual areas.

Alongside local implementation, the ICON programme has been embedded within a range of national resources. This includes NHS Scotland branded materials and inclusion within national parenting resources including the Red Book, Ready Steady Baby, Baby Box and Parent Club. This work will continue to be promoted across Scotland as a standard message and material to be provided to all new parents.

I would like to thank you again for writing to me regarding these issues. I hope I have assured you of the Scottish Government's commitment to protecting children from harm.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

SIOBHIAN BROWN

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