Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee 20 March 2024 Enquiries from Elected Members	
	Responses to Questions
Item 1	**Education Services**
Question 1	Bailie Kavanagh - Requested more detail on the absence level and in particular asked to be provided with days lots due to absence and the cost of this.
Answer	In Quarter 3, October 2023 to December 2023, the average days lost for teachers was 2.6 days and for support staff was 5.8 days. The direct cost of absence in Education is in relation to supply teachers to cover absent teachers.
Item 3(b)	**Corporate Review – Non-capital spend.**
Question 2	Bailie Kavanagh - Referred to key control 3 non-catalogue items and in particular he wanted to know how often the PECOS system was checked for value for money.
Answer	The Council undertakes procurement exercises in order to select suppliers. As part of this process, bidders provide details of the prices they intend to charge – this is considered along with other elements (such as quality) as part of the assessment process. This ensures that the prices paid for goods and services provide best value. The process for agreeing changes to prices during the contract period varies depending on the terms of the contract. Contracts are normally re-tendered every 3 to 5 years, but this depends on the nature of the goods/services being procured.

This paper will be considered at the start of the committee agenda however requests for clarification on the answers can be made via the committee clerk in advance of the committee meeting.