Q.1	To be asked by: Councillor Rashid Hussain
Tabled Question	“To ask the Leader of the Council what action the Administration intends to take in response to the findings of Beyond the Numbers: Understanding Family Poverty in Glasgow 2026, which identifies 25,485 children experiencing relative poverty under the Council's Council Tax Reduction-based measure in 2025/26, an increase of 758 from the previous year.”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City Region, Economy and Just Transition

The increase in child poverty identified in Beyond the Numbers is deeply worrying and should concern every level of government.

While the Council has a significant role to play, it is also important to recognise that the key drivers of poverty are often beyond the direct control of local government. Glasgow continues to face the consequences of low pay, insecure work and years of pressure on household incomes, which have left many families struggling despite being in employment.

That is why our approach is focused on doing everything within our powers to support families while working with partners to influence change nationally. Tackling child poverty has been established as the number one priority within our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, guiding the work of the Council, NHS, housing providers, the third sector and a range of public sector partners.

Practical action is already underway. We are investing £8.9 million in financial inclusion services, strengthening income maximisation support, improving access to advice services and developing more joined-up support for families. We are also using better data to help identify households at greatest risk of hardship and ensure support reaches them earlier.

Alongside this, we continue to expand preventative approaches that help families avoid reaching crisis in the first place, recognising that long-term improvement comes from sustained support rather than one-off interventions.

The figures published in this report are a reminder of the scale of the challenge, but they also reinforce the importance of continuing the partnership-wide reform and investment already underway across the city.

Our ambition is not simply to move families marginally above a poverty threshold, but to improve their circumstances sustainably and create better opportunities for Glasgow's children.

Q.2	To be asked by: Councillor Rashid Hussain
Tabled Question	“Will the Leader give an unequivocal commitment that Glasgow City Council will not dismiss and re-engage employees in order to impose the new Pay and Grading Structure following the conclusion of the current ballot process?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City Region, Economy and Just Transition

Thank you for the question.

Let me be clear that my strong preference, and the Council's strong preference, is to secure collective agreement with our recognised trade unions on the implementation of the new Pay and Grading structure. That remains the focus of our efforts, and I welcome the fact that all three unions are currently consulting their members through the ballot process.

However, there is a wider issue here that cannot be ignored. For decades, this Council, like a number of other local authorities, operated a pay system that has been found to be discriminatory and has resulted in significant equal pay liabilities. We have a legal and moral responsibility to bring that discrimination to an end and ensure that we have a pay and grading system that is fair, transparent and legally compliant for all employees.

There is an inherent tension between that obligation and the UK Government's proposed restrictions on dismissal and re-engagement for local government.

Those measures were rightly designed to prevent employers using fire and rehire practices to undermine terms and conditions for commercial gain and we absolutely support that principal. But local authorities are in a different position. We are not seeking to increase profits or reduce workers' rights. We are seeking to replace a discriminatory pay scheme with one that delivers equal pay and ensures compliance with the law.

So, in answer to the question, I do not want to dismiss and re-engage any member of staff. I did not want to do so previously, and I do not want to do so now. Collective agreement remains by far the best outcome for employees, trade unions and the Council and we welcome that all the unions are currently balloting on this proposal

My priority is to secure agreement through negotiation and partnership working. But my overriding responsibility is to ensure that Glasgow finally draws a line under decades of pay discrimination and delivers a fair and sustainable pay system for all of our employees.

Q.3	To be asked by: Councillor Lilith Johnston
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor whether the City Administration considers the continued pursuit of legal expenses from members of the Glasgow City Parents' Group to be proportionate and in the wider public interest, and what assessment has been undertaken of the potential impact this may have on volunteering, parental engagement, and public participation in local democracy.”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City Region, Economy and Just Transition

Thank you for the question.

I want to be clear that I greatly value the contribution parents, carers and volunteers make to our schools and communities. Their commitment helps strengthen education and local democracy, and I understand why this case has generated concern.

However, there is an important distinction between engaging with the Council, challenging decisions through consultation and public debate, and pursuing legal action through the courts. I welcome challenge and scrutiny, and I want people to continue making their voices heard. But when a judicial review is brought against the Council, there are financial consequences if that action is unsuccessful.

In this case, the Council successfully defended the legal challenge and the court awarded expenses in the Council’s favour. The Council incurred significant costs in responding to that action, and we have a responsibility to safeguard public funds. Money spent defending legal proceedings is money that cannot be spent on frontline services, including services that support children, young people and families.

Seeking to recover court-awarded expenses is therefore not a reflection on the value of those involved, nor does it diminish their contribution to their schools or communities. It is about recognising the outcome of a legal process and our duty to taxpayers across the city.

The handling of legal proceedings and the recovery of expenses are operational matters for officers under delegated authority. While it is disappointing that no financial contribution has been offered towards these costs to date, officers have assured me that they remain willing to consider reasonable settlement proposals and to take account of the individual circumstances involved.

The objective is not to cause unnecessary hardship. Rather, it is to reach a fair and proportionate resolution that reflects both the court’s decision and our wider responsibility to protect public resources. I understand officers remain open to constructive discussions through the parties’ legal representatives to achieve that outcome.

Q.4	To be asked by: Bailie Soryia Siddique
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor update on any renewed action Glasgow City Council is proposing to take within Glasgow schools and across its Glasgow employment to tackle all forms of hate, sectarianism, racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism?”
Responder	Councillor Elaine McSporran, City Convener for Education

The education department remains fully committed to tackling all forms of hate, discrimination and prejudice within our schools and across our workforce. In response to growing concerns about racism, sectarianism, Islamophobia, antisemitism and other forms of hate-related behaviour, Education Services has recently strengthened its programme of preventative education, professional learning and leadership support.

Within schools, we continue to expand our anti-racism programme through pupil workshops, anti-racism conversation groups, anti-racist educator professional learning, and citywide showcase events. We are also supporting schools to address emerging issues such as online hate, misinformation and community tensions through targeted guidance, staff development and the sharing of effective practice.

We are continuing to invest in established programmes which help young people challenge prejudice and discrimination, including Sense Over Sectarianism**,** Mentors in Violence Prevention, anti-racism education initiatives and Holocaust Memorial learning activities delivered in partnership with external organisations and community groups. These programmes address sectarianism, racism, antisemitism, gender-based violence and wider hatred, while promoting inclusion, respect and positive relationships.

Earlier this month, Education Services convened a citywide Equalities and Anti-Discrimination Summit for headteachers. School leaders reported increasing concerns about racism, discrimination, online harms and community tensions and called for greater consistency, clearer guidance, enhanced training and stronger support. As a result, we are developing a more coordinated citywide approach focused on prevention, staff training, digital literacy, family engagement, reporting arrangements and leadership support.

We have also provided leadership development on hate crime and hate-related harm, supporting schools to understand their responsibilities under equality legislation and to create environments where all children, young people and staff feel safe, respected, valued and able to challenge prejudice. This work emphasises that tackling hate is not solely a response to incidents but requires sustained action to foster good relations and build inclusive school communities.

Across both our schools and wider employment settings, the Council will continue to work with partners, communities and equalities organisations to challenge racism, sectarianism, Islamophobia, antisemitism and all forms of hate, ensuring that Glasgow remains a city where diversity is valued and everyone can participate, belong and thrive.

Q.5	To be asked by: Bailie Martha Wardrop
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convener for an update on the number of short term lets that are operating without a licence.”
Responder	Councillor Christina Cannon, Council Business Manager and City Convener for Open Government

A Short Term Let is defined in The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022, which introduced a mandatory licensing scheme for Short Term Lets across Scotland. Under that legislation, Glasgow City Council, as the Licensing Authority, is responsible for processing and determining licence applications and ensuring that licensed operators meet the relevant conditions.

However, the legislation does not provide Licensing Authorities with powers to investigate or enforce against unlicensed Short Term Lets. Operating a Short Term Let without a licence is a criminal offence, and responsibility for enforcement rests with Police Scotland.

As a result, the Council does not hold definitive information on the number of Short Term Lets operating without a licence in Glasgow. The Council continues to process applications, maintain the licensing register and work with relevant partners to support compliance with the statutory licensing scheme. Where concerns are raised regarding potential unlicensed operation, these can be referred to Police Scotland for consideration under the legislation.

While the Council can report on the number of applications received and licences granted, it is not in a position to provide an accurate figure for the number of unlicensed Short Term Lets currently operating within the city.

Q.6	To be asked by: Councillor Lana Reid-McConnell
Tabled Question	“To ask the Convener for Transport what discussions with Voi have taken place about addressing their drastic increase to charges for packages, with their largest package going from £17.99 for 1,400 minutes to £26.99 for 300 minutes?”
Responder	Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery

Thank you, Lord Provost.

The Voi bike hire scheme operates without subsidy from Glasgow City Council, and the pricing structure offered is a commercial decision for Voi. The Council’s role is to ensure that both Pay As You Go and membership options are available and promote expansion across the City.

Prior to the commencement of the Voi scheme last year, their original proposed pricing structure for Glasgow contained a 99p unlock fee for each and every hire, in line with other UK and international hire schemes.

As part of their introductory offer to encourage uptake in Glasgow, Voi removed the £0.99 unlock for a period of time. Voi subsequently informed officers that it intended to instate the fee for all users from October 2026, citing increased business costs.

Following discussions with council officers last month, in which the Council expressed its concern over the introduction of an unlock fee, Voi agreed to instead change the pricing structure of its membership bundles, subsequently removing two of the available bundle packages, but maintaining the £0.00 unlock fee for all users.

It is worth noting that 93% of all hires are made using the Pay As You Go tariff, with just 7% of users purchasing bundles, and therefore a price structure change aimed at altering bundle offers has avoided additional costs for the vast majority of users who would have seen an additional 99p for each journey under Voi’s original plans.

I do recognise that for those users who were frequently purchasing larger bundles, Voi’s pricing structure change represents a significant cost increase compared to their introductory offer.

I have therefore asked relevant Council officers to engage further with Voi to make the case for additional offers to be introduced for bands in excess of the 300 minute bundle.

I would also note that in addition to their core pricing structure, Voi continue to offer a range of discounts for various groups, including students, over 60s and low income individuals, the full details of which are available via the Voi website.

Q.7	To be asked by: Bailie Ann Jenkins
Tabled Question	“Can the relevant Convenor advise what steps the Council is taking to protect the setting and character of Glasgow's historic buildings and heritage assets from the increasing concentration of vape shops and similar uses within the city centre?”
Responder	Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Deputy Leader and City Convener for Housing, Development, Built Heritage and Land Use

The Council’s ability to regulate vape shops through the planning system is currently limited by national planning legislation. At present, a retailer can begin selling vapes from an existing retail unit without requiring planning permission, as this does not constitute a formal change of use.

Where changes are proposed to a shopfront, signage or a building exterior, planning permission, listed building consent or advertisement consent may be required. In considering such applications, the Council takes account of the character and setting of listed buildings, conservation areas and other heritage assets. Guidance for businesses and property owners is set out in the City Development Plan’s SG1 Placemaking Part 2 guidance.

If unauthorised alterations are made to a shopfront or signage, or if a change of use requiring planning permission takes place without consent, Planning Enforcement can investigate and take appropriate action to secure the necessary applications or remedies.

It is also worth noting that licensing and trading standards legislation may play a role in the regulation of vape products and their sale.

More broadly, if vape shops were assigned a separate planning use class, as has happened with gambling premises, planning permission would be required before a retail unit could change to a vape shop. Any such change would require action by the Scottish Government. Earlier this year, the Council’s Chief Executive wrote to the Scottish Government and MSPs urging them to consider stronger regulation of vape products and the storage of lithium-ion batteries.

While the Council is committed to protecting Glasgow’s historic buildings and heritage assets, the powers available to do so in relation to vape shops are currently constrained by the national planning framework. We will continue to press for greater regulatory powers where these would help protect the character and quality of the city centre.

Q.8	To be asked by: Bailie Seonad Hoy
Tabled Question	“Does the relevant convenor recognise the concerns that have been raised by trade unions, volunteer organisations and parent representatives about the impact that pursuing legal expenses from individual volunteers may have on future volunteering, parental engagement and civic participation, and given those concerns, will the Council reconsider its pursuit of legal expenses against Leanne McGuire and other Glasgow City Parents Group volunteers?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City Region, Economy and Just Transition

I covered this more fully earlier in the Order Paper, but I would reiterate the key points. While the Council has a responsibility to safeguard public funds and to take account of expenses awarded in its favour by the courts, the recovery of those expenses is an operational matter delegated to officers rather than a decision for Councillors or the Administration.

At the same time, officers have made clear that they remain willing to consider reasonable settlement proposals and to take full account of the circumstances of those involved. The Council's objective is not to create unnecessary hardship, but to secure a fair and proportionate outcome that reflects both the court's decision and our wider responsibility to taxpayers.

The way forward is for any proposals to be discussed directly with officers through the parties' legal representatives, with the aim of reaching a practical and manageable arrangement for all concerned.

Q.9	To be asked by: Councillor Sean Ferguson
Tabled Question	“To ask the Leader of the Council for an update on work taking place across the city to reduce poverty?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City Region, Economy and Just Transition

Reducing poverty is one of the greatest challenges facing Glasgow, and it is why tackling child and family poverty has been made the foremost priority in the city's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for the next decade.

As I have already outlined in response to previous questions, there is significant work taking place across the city to strengthen financial inclusion services, provide earlier support to families, maximise household incomes and coordinate services more effectively around those who need them most.

It is also important to recognise the significant contribution being made by the Scottish Government through measures such as the Scottish Child Payment, Best Start Grants, Best Start Foods, funded early learning and childcare, and the Scottish Welfare Fund. These interventions are helping to put additional money directly into the pockets of low-income families and remain a crucial part of Scotland's efforts to tackle child poverty.

Alongside that national support, Glasgow is continuing to reshape local services around prevention and early intervention. We are investing in financial inclusion services, expanding whole-family support and working with partners to identify and support families earlier, before difficulties escalate into crisis.

Poverty is a complex challenge that no single organisation can solve alone. However, by combining the work of the Council, our community planning partners and the Scottish Government, we are taking a coordinated approach that focuses not simply on alleviating immediate hardship, but on improving life chances and reducing poverty over the longer term.

While there is much more to do, I am encouraged by the shared commitment across the city and the country to ensuring that every child and family has the opportunity to thrive.

Q.10	To be asked by: Councillor Alex Wilson
Tabled Question	“To ask the Convener for Health, Care and Caring and Older People whether he agrees it is unfair for Glasgow pensioners to face lower pension growth under UK Labour to fund free personal care in England, when Scotland has provided it for over two decades?”
Responder	Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care and Caring and Older People

Scotland has already provided free personal care for more than two decades and that remains one of the most significant social policy achievements for older people anywhere in the UK.

My concern is therefore not with the objective of improving social care, but with who ultimately pays. Age UK has emphasised that the triple lock remains a crucial tool for preventing pensioner poverty, ensuring that low-income older people can keep up with volatile essential costs like heating and food.

Glasgow is home to 91,003 residents aged 65 and over and many rely heavily on the State Pension as a foundation of their retirement income.

Scottish Government analysis suggests that changes to the Triple Lock could leave Scotland's pensioners collectively around £4 billion a year worse off by 2049-50, equivalent to an estimated £2,000 per pensioner annually in real terms compared with retaining the current system.

Organisations representing older people have already expressed strong concerns. Age Scotland has warned that pensioner poverty remains far too high and highlighted that the proposed trade-off between pension income and social care spending in England does not automatically benefit pensioners in Scotland.

That is the central question. Why should Glasgow pensioners potentially lose out financially in future to fund reforms elsewhere when Scotland already provides free personal care?

Older people deserve decent care, but they also deserve financial security. Those should be complementary objectives rather than competing priorities.

Q.11	To be asked by: Bailie Anthony Carroll
Tabled Question	“To ask the Leader of the Council if he has had discussions with STV on how the Council can support attracting a new anchor production to help Glasgow’s television industry following the loss of River City, in particular in light of Doctor Who’s production being put out to tender for new productions?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City Region, Economy and Just Transition

Thank you for the question, Bailie Carroll.

The end of *River City* is a significant loss, not just for audiences, but for Glasgow's wider screen and creative industries. For many years the programme has provided a steady pipeline of employment and training opportunities for actors, writers, production staff, technicians and freelancers, while helping to sustain the wider ecosystem of companies and talent that make Glasgow one of the UK's leading production centres.

More broadly, the screen sector makes an important contribution to Glasgow's economy. Film and television productions bring investment into the city, support highly-skilled jobs, create opportunities for local businesses and showcase Glasgow to audiences around the world. We have seen that through productions ranging from major international dramas to high-profile film projects, all of which help reinforce Glasgow's reputation as a leading creative city and an attractive location for investment.

That is why I believe it is important that we do everything we reasonably can to support and protect the sector. While decisions on commissioning and production ultimately sit with broadcasters and production companies, there is a clear role for the Council and our partners in ensuring Glasgow remains an attractive place to film, invest and grow creative businesses.

As part of my programme of engagement with businesses and organisations across the city, I have a meeting scheduled next month with the Chief Executive of STV. Therefore, while I have not yet had the opportunity to discuss this issue directly, I am very happy to confirm to the Chamber that I will raise it as part of that meeting.

In particular, I am keen to understand how the Council can work with STV, Screen Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and other industry partners to support the continued growth of Glasgow's television and production sector, and to explore opportunities to attract future flagship productions to the city.

The current discussions around the future production arrangements for *Doctor Who* also highlight the importance of ensuring Scotland, and Glasgow in particular, is well positioned to compete for major productions and the jobs and investment that come with them. While there are no guarantees around any individual production, I think there is a strong case for working proactively with the industry to maximise those opportunities.

The screen sector is a real Glasgow success story, and it is one that is well worth protecting and growing for the future.

12	To be asked by: Bailie Paul McCabe
Tabled Question	“To ask the Convener for Communities her view on the new £30m Scotland Together fund and how it could support communities in the city?”
Responder	Bailie Anne McTaggart, City Convener for Communities and Equalities

Thank you for the question.

I very much welcome the announcement of the new Scotland Together Fund, which will provide more than £30 million of support for grassroots and community organisations working in some of Scotland’s most disadvantaged areas.

Across Glasgow, we see every day the positive impact that local community groups, charities and volunteers have in bringing people together, tackling poverty and supporting those who need help most. We also know that growing inequality, social division, and the spread of misinformation can place real pressures on communities and risk driving people apart.

The Scotland Together Fund has the potential to make a meaningful difference by providing long-term, multi-year support for organisations delivering frontline services. Importantly, it recognises that building stronger communities is not just about responding to challenges when they arise, but about investing in prevention, strengthening community relationships and helping people improve their quality of life.

The Fund will focus on communities experiencing significant poverty and disadvantage, helping organisations that are tackling inequality, supporting social cohesion and creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds to come together. That is particularly important at a time when we are seeing increasing concern about racism, hate crime and wider societal divisions.

I was particularly pleased that the First Minister recognised the vital role grassroots organisations play in holding communities together. Their work often goes unseen, but it is essential in supporting families, reducing isolation, creating opportunities and ensuring everyone feels they belong.

For Glasgow, this funding could provide valuable additional support for community-led projects that are already delivering real change across our neighbourhoods. It has the potential to strengthen local organisations, expand successful initiatives and help build the kind of inclusive, resilient communities that we all want to see.

I look forward to seeing the detailed criteria when they are published and to working with partners across the city to help ensure Glasgow communities are well placed to benefit from this welcome investment.

Q.13	To be asked by: Councillor Robert Mooney
Tabled Question	“To ask the relevant Convenor, in light of growing public concerns about rat sightings in communities across Glasgow, whether they believe current cleansing and pest control arrangements are sufficient, and what additional measures are being considered to tackle the problem.”
Responder	Councillor Laura Doherty, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets

The Council recognises residents’ concerns about rat sightings and the impact this can have on communities, public confidence and perceptions of environmental quality. While rodent activity is a challenge faced by cities across Scotland and the UK, we are determined to ensure Glasgow has effective arrangements in place to respond.

Recent investment in Pest Control and Cleansing Services, including increased capacity and repeat visits where required, has strengthened the Council’s ability to respond to reports and target problem areas. While it is too early to conclude that there has been a reduction in the underlying pest population across the city, the latest service data provides encouraging signs. In September 2026, reports of rats within living areas fell by 26% compared with the same period last year, from 237 reports to 176, while reports in non-living areas fell by 16%, from 714 reports to 600. Both measures also showed a reduction compared with August 2026. The Council continues to monitor these trends closely while maintaining a focus on prevention, treatment and environmental management.

However, tackling vermin activity cannot be achieved by the Council alone. Housing providers, factors, businesses and property owners all have an important role to play in addressing the conditions that can contribute to infestations, including waste management, property maintenance, drainage issues and land management.

The Council is therefore working with housing associations and other local partners to develop a more coordinated and preventative approach that focuses on tackling the underlying causes of infestations as well as responding when they occur. This work will help inform future action across the city and support a more sustainable approach to pest management.

Going forward, we will continue to review the impact of recent investment and work with partners to deliver lasting improvements through effective pest control, cleaner neighbourhoods and stronger preventative measures.

Q.14	To be asked by: Councillor John Daly
Tabled Question	“Given the annual blight on the lives of many residents and their pets at this time of year, can the convenor promise to look at the reinstatement of a city funded firework display as a means of allowing a fireworks celebration which discourages private use at home?”
Responder	Councillor Richard Bell, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City Region, Economy and Just Transition

Thank you for the question, Councillor Daly.

I agree that this is an important issue. My personal view is that there is a strong case for reinstating a large, organised fireworks display at Glasgow Green. As you have highlighted, a public event could help provide a safer, more controlled way for people to celebrate, while also helping to reduce the number of unofficial and often disruptive firework displays taking place in our communities.

That said, it is not a straightforward decision. The cost of delivering a major fireworks event is significant, and we also need to consider the impact such an event can have on residents living in and around Glasgow Green.

Glasgow Life are currently exploring the options available, including whether future Transient Visitor Levy funding could support an event of this kind, or whether there may be opportunities to work with the Glasgow City Business Improvement District, and other partners to help make it viable.

While I cannot commit today to reinstating a city-funded fireworks display, I can commit to giving the proposal serious consideration. I recognise the impact that fireworks can have on many residents, pet owners and communities at this time of year, and I am happy to provide councillors with an update on the options in due course.

Q.15	To be asked by: Bailie Roza Salih
Tabled Question	“To ask the Chair of the Digital Glasgow Board what work is currently being undertaken in relation to data centres and their potential impact upon Glasgow’s communities.”
Responder	Councillor Paul Leinster, Chair of Glasgow Digital Board

The Digital Glasgow Board has already begun work to understand both the opportunities presented by data centres and their potential impacts on Glasgow's communities.

In August, the Board considered a paper specifically on this issue and supported a cross-Council scoping exercise, working with Planning and other relevant services, to consider whether additional planning guidance or policy clarification would be beneficial.

Many concerns about data centres relate to large-scale “hyperscale” facilities. However, data centres vary considerably in type, scale and purpose. The scoping work therefore looks at this wider range of developments, examining electricity and water demand, carbon emissions, cooling, noise, land use and wider environmental impacts, alongside the potential economic and community benefits.

The Board was clear that development should not be considered solely in terms of attracting investment. We also need to understand its purpose, its public value and how any impacts can be mitigated. Officers have been asked to consider backup power generation, associated noise and environmental impacts, light pollution, and appropriate assessment criteria.

Officers are now engaging with Planning, sustainability and economic development colleagues as well as industry to develop that evidence base. This includes looking at opportunities associated with smaller-scale urban and edge data centres and how innovative approaches might address challenges around energy, heat and water.

Our objective is therefore to develop an informed and balanced position: recognising that digital infrastructure is increasingly important to our economy and public services, while ensuring that the interests of Glasgow's communities, our environmental ambitions and demonstrable public value are central to how future development is considered.

Q.16	To be asked by: Bailie Margaret Morgan
Tabled Question	“To ask the Convener for Education her views in relation to the new Misogyny Bill that will be in place by next summer?”
Responder	Councillor Elaine McSporran, City Convener for Education

I very much welcome the Scottish Government's commitment to introduce a Misogyny Bill by next summer. Violence, harassment and abuse directed at women and girls have no place in Scotland, and it is right that we continue to strengthen the legal protections available to tackle misogynistic behaviour and attitudes.

While we will need to consider the detail of the legislation when it is published, the principle behind it is an important one. Every woman and girl should be able to live, work, study and participate in public life free from intimidation, harassment and abuse. The proposed Bill is a significant step towards recognising the particular harms caused by misogyny and ensuring they are addressed appropriately in law.

It is also encouraging to see the broad support the proposal has received from organisations working with women and girls across Scotland. Rape Crisis Scotland welcomed the decision to bring forward legislation, saying it was encouraged to see the plans return with a clear timetable, reflecting the reality that many women experience misogynistic abuse as part of their everyday lives.

Alongside legislation, I welcome the Scottish Government's wider commitment to prevention and education, including additional investment in programmes that help young people challenge misogynistic attitudes and promote respect. As an Education Convener, I believe that tackling these issues early, through positive relationships and education, is just as important as ensuring appropriate legal protections are in place which is why I also support the funding announced at SNP conference to provide this support in schools.

In Glasgow, we are proud of the work taking place across our schools and communities to promote equality, respect and inclusion. The proposed Misogyny Bill has the potential to complement that work, sending a clear message that misogyny is unacceptable and that women and girls have the right to feel safe, valued and respected in every part of society.

I look forward to seeing the detail of the Bill and to engaging constructively with the Scottish Government and stakeholders as it progresses through Parliament.