

**Cross Party Group on the Scots Language (Education)**  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2009  
Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 6

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**News and Information**

**From the Official Report of the Scottish Parliament, 23.4.2009**

**Bill Wilson:** ‘In light of the compelling testimony from front-line teachers that increased provision of the Scots language can enhance literacy, social inclusion, English skills and the understanding of Scots culture, does the Scottish Government have plans to significantly increase investment in Scots in schools? Does it have plans to commission research into the provision of Scots education?’

**Keith Brown:** ‘As Bill Wilson knows—or as he kens fine, as I should perhaps say—local authorities are responsible for allocating budgets to their schools to meet the demands and priorities in their local area. It is for schools, in the light of the curriculum framework within which they operate, to determine how best to organise the syllabus for all subjects, including Scots in schools. There is no extra funding for Scots and the Scottish Government has no plans to increase significantly investment in Scots in schools.’

The member will be aware that, at the Equal Opportunities Committee's meeting on 24 February, it agreed to refer points relating to the Scots language audit report to the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee. Those included the suggestion that the Government consider commissioning further research to explore attitudes to the Scots language in teaching and the finding that provision appears more frequent in primary than in secondary schools. I can confirm that Scottish Government officials met on 18 March to consider how further research could build on the findings of the recent Scots language audit to provide an understanding of the barriers to provision in secondary schools.’

*Keith Brown is Minister for Schools and Skills  
Bill Wilson is an MSP for West of Scotland*

**Relevant Websites**

Scots CPG Education sub-committee's home page  
[www.scotsinschools.com](http://www.scotsinschools.com)

Scots CPG page on Parliament website  
[www.scottish.parliament.uk/msp/crossPartyGroups/groups/cpg-scots.htm](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/msp/crossPartyGroups/groups/cpg-scots.htm)

Full list of MSPs available at  
[www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/msp/msphome/default.aspx](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/msp/msphome/default.aspx)

**Final thought for the first meeting**

“The prospect of raising our wean in a culture rich in understanding of its own languages....very exciting!”  
Jo Allen, PT English, Portobello HS, Edinburgh