



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Independence of Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People 'must be upheld'**

Following the publication of a report this morning (Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September) by the Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee into the operations of Scotland's independent commissioners, Children in Scotland reiterates its support for the independence of the office of Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People.

We understand the finance committee's report will make a number of recommendations for changing the status of the office of the children's commissioner. This may include questions over the independent status of the commissioner's office, and suggestions that the office should be made more accountable to either the Scottish Parliament or the Scottish Executive.

Bronwen Cohen, chief executive of Children in Scotland, said:

"We will be examining the report closely. What is clear is that Scotland needs an independent commissioner in whom children and young people themselves, as well as the Scottish Parliament, can have full confidence."

"The arguments that led to the establishment of the children's commissioner, which we believe is one of the considerable achievements of the Scottish Parliament, remain as strong as ever."

Children in Scotland's statement of support comes alongside those of other agencies, including YouthLink Scotland, Children First and Aberlour Child Care Trust.

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**Notes for editors:**

Children in Scotland is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that relevant policies, services and provisions are of the best possible quality and able to meet the needs of a diverse society.