

**13 April 2017**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LOCAL MP & MSP SLAM LABOUR'S PFI SCHOOL LEGACY**

**£425 MILLION TO BE PAID OUT THIS YEAR – ROBBING MONEY FROM VITAL SERVICES**

Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock MP Corri Wilson has condemned Labour's PFI schools scheme as "irresponsible and shambolic". The scheme continues to cost councils millions of pounds every year, SPICe analysis has revealed – proving they are a party which cannot be trusted to manage vital public services.

The duff deals made by Labour during their time in power at Holyrood will cost local authorities £426.8 million in this financial year alone, demonstrating their short-term thinking and profligate use of public money.

Labour's PFI schools in Edinburgh were poorly and dangerously built and forced to close for nearly 500 days so that essential repairs could be carried out. The total cost of the toxic PFI legacy across all projects topped £1 billion in 2015/16, with this figure continuing to rise.

Ms Wilson said:

*"These figures are a staggering indictment of Labour's failed policies and inability to govern. While, thankfully, Labour are no longer in power at Holyrood, the Scottish people are still having to pay for their mess. What a legacy they have left us."*

*"As a result of the previous Labour administration's irresponsible and shambolic approach to PFI, East Ayrshire Council shells out £10m per year on payments for just four schools. In South Ayrshire, this figure is £10.5m – thanks to a deal negotiated by the Conservative administration in 2006. While Labour constantly carp from the sidelines about the SNP's record, with £425m being spent this year alone on this failed scheme, it is high time they had a look at their own record."*

*"Labour, and their Tory accomplices, should apologise for this toxic legacy."*

Jeane Freeman, MSP for Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley, said:

*"Helping all young people to reach their full potential through education is a vitally important goal for the Scottish Government, and it is ridiculous that money is being spent propping up inadequate school buildings instead of teaching children. Labour's PFI scheme has been, as expected, a failure. Local councils, and local people, are now paying for the Labour Party's recklessness, money that would be better spent directly on children and young people."*

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