

PE1434/A

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh
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T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
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Ar faidhle/Our ref: POL/10431
21 September 2012

Dear Alison,

Thank you for your letter of 29 June to the Scottish Government seeking a written response to the Public Petitions Committee on PE1434. The specific question to which the Scottish Government were requested to respond is set out below, followed by our response.

What are your views on what the petition seeks ?

Petition PE1434 calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make sure every school can provide adequate sports facilities and resources for their students and to create a minimum level of facilities available.

Under current legislation, the statutory responsibility for the provision of education in Scotland rests with education authorities. They are charged with providing an adequate and efficient education, suitable to the needs of the child for children of school age residing in their area. It is, therefore, a matter for individual local authorities to determine the level of sports facilities required in individual schools. They will, of course, do so within the legislative framework which include regulations specific to the provision of sports facilities.

The School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967 sets out requirements with regard to educational accommodation depending on the number of pupils at the school. This includes accommodation for physical education. Similarly there is a requirement to provide playing fields, with the precise area of playing fields again determined by the number of pupils. The regulations also stipulate that every school shall have immediately adjacent to the school building, an outdoor area laid out and surfaces for educational and recreational purposes.

The legislative framework is then already there to ensure that schools provide a minimum level of facilities and resources for their students to be able to undertake a range of physical

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activities. In many new schools these facilities are exemplary and will far exceed minimum standards. Although as I have explained, it is for individual local authorities to determine the level and range of facilities that are to be provided within the school estate, the Scottish Government, through **sportscotland**, makes funding available to support the development of sports facilities provided a number of criteria are met including the accessibility of the facility to the wider community.

You may be aware that as part of the Scottish Government's legacy ambitions for the Commonwealth Games, we are looking to develop 150 Community Sports Hubs across Scotland. These Hubs will offer a home for sports in the local community ensuring better co-ordination and support for a wide range of activities. The Hubs will be based in a variety of locations with at least 50% based in schools.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Moore