

PE1498/M

**THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND**  
**EIS COMMENTS FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION**  
**OF PETITION [PE1498](#)**

***Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to bring forward legislative proposals to repeal Section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended by Section 31 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994. This would end the legal obligation on local authorities to appoint three unelected religious representatives to sit on their education committees.***

The EIS has no strong view in relation to whether the obligatory nature of church representation on Education Committees should continue. However, if there is no consistent view on the principle of church representation on Education Committees this could lead to disparities of representation on local committees across the country. It is, nevertheless, important to bear in mind that, historically, Council Education Committees do represent a broad cross section of the Education Community (including: parents, teachers and church representatives) and we would be loath to see this breadth of representation being diluted.

If an extension of this petition's proposal was to remove all unelected members of Council Education Committees this is something the EIS would oppose. We would press strongly for the retention of voting rights for teacher representatives. Teachers do form a significant group of local authority employees who can and do make an important contribution to the work of Council Education Committees across Scotland.

11 March 2014