



2 December 2014

Ned Sharratt
Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Sharratt

- Thank you for the opportunity to comment on petition PE1531 and the discussion that took place on 28 October. COSLA notes with interest the views of the petitioner in particular in relation to the point concerning state school access to charitable status.

COSLA has no formal view on the matter of removing charitable status from “private schools”. Neither have we have conducted any specific investigations as to the desire of local authorities to take up opportunities to register schools under their control in this way, therefore we cannot comment on whether this is a viable option to be pursued.

It is worth highlighting that there is a distinction to be made between privately run schools which deliver education services funded by the fees charged to parents and those privately run schools that offer specialist services in education, usually, though not exclusively for children and young people with additional needs, being services not otherwise available in local authority schools. Most if not all children and young people attend the latter establishments through local authority referrals.

In summary, we would agree with the view that schools seeking charitable status should be able to demonstrate public benefit and be able to demonstrate that it only has charitable purposes as set out in the OSCR charity test.

I trust you find these comments of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Douglas Chapman
COSLA spokesperson, Education Children and Young People