

PE1711/M

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills submission of 3 June 2019

Thank you for your letter of 19 February 2019, regarding consideration of Petition PE1711. I note this petition has two aims, namely urging the Scottish Government to ensure that all primary schools in Scotland incorporate basic first aid as an integral part of their curriculum, and, provide funding in order to develop high quality teaching materials on what to do in common emergencies, as well as to establish training and support for teachers to enable them to deliver these skills during short, interactive first aid workshops.

Under Curriculum for Excellence, schools already have the flexibility to provide first aid training. It is therefore up to individual schools and local authorities to decide if they wish to provide first aid training and, if they choose to do so, how best to deliver it taking into account the needs and circumstances of all pupils in attendance. Within this context, the Scottish Government cannot prescribe on the content of what should be taught within lessons in schools.

The Education Scotland website currently hosts a learning resource for primary and secondary practitioners who are looking to deliver first aid training as part of the curriculum. This resource teaches all children about what to do in an emergency, how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and instruct adults on what to do. This resource contains 14 videos and an information booklet. This resource also provides resources and videos for CPR training for children from primary 1 upwards.

In respect of first aid training support for teaching staff in schools, COSLA has confirmed that schools already have their own arrangements in place for handling incidents by ensuring that sufficient numbers of school staff are trained in line with local requirements and that incidents are escalated as necessary in line with local protocols.