

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 19 June 2019 14:17:44
 To: Public Engagement Unit
 Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
 Subject: FW: St Ambrose & Buchanan High Campus

PEU

Hi,

For MACCs. MR please assign to [REDACTED]

Thanks,

[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney MSP
 | Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills |
 Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [REDACTED]
 E: DFMCS@gov.scot

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-----Original Message-----

From: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
 Sent: 13 June 2019 15:56
 To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
 <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
 Subject: FW: St Ambrose & Buchanan High Campus

For DFM Consideration

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] | Scottish Government Complaints Manager Room 1E.10 | St Andrew's
 House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 13 June 2019 14:25
 To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
 Subject: St Ambrose & Buchanan High Campus

Dear Mr Swinney

As a deeply worried parent with 2 pupils who have had their school year severely disrupted by unexplained illness, I am delighted that you have taken charge of this sorry situation.

I ask that you don't waste time pouring over old planning data, but act swiftly to ensure that soil, groundwater and air (internal & external) samples are analysed to evidence whether contaminants are present.

I ask for systematic testing of pupils and staff, starting with those exhibiting symptoms, which for some reason public health tell me they have no sight of.

And finally I ask for clear and open communication on progress as frankly NLC and Public Health have been abject in their performance in this area which has exacerbated an already charged situation.

Best Regards



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2019 16:00:17
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St. Ambrose & Buchanan High School Review

MACCS case please for OR

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel: [REDACTED]

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From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 19 June 2019 15:03
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: St. Ambrose & Buchanan High School Review

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Govanhill Workspace
Unit 3, 69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

All other enquiries to nicola.sturgeon@snp.org<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon@snp.org>>

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 1:36:38 PM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP; Swinney J (John), MSP; Freeman J (Jeane), MSP; MacGregor F (Fulton), MSP; Paul.cackette@gov.scot<mailto:Paul.cackette@gov.scot>; Linda.deCaestecker@ggc.scot.nhs.uk<mailto:Linda.deCaestecker@ggc.scot.nhs.uk>
Subject: St. Ambrose & Buchanan High School Review

I am writing as a concerned parent of two pupils of St. Ambrose high school. [REDACTED]

They both suffer from headaches, stomach cramps, and fatigue at least 3 times a week. Funnily enough, they don't get these during the summer holiday's.

Now knowing what I know about the site, the symptoms of heavy metal poisoning and also that these symptoms are very common in other pupils, I am now very concerned.

I main concerns are the reluctance to test and publish the results of new, current, ground and water samples and the reluctance to test all our kids and the staff for toxins.

I think it is disgusting that these things are not done as a priority. If everything comes back clear, we can all stop worrying. And if they don't..... well, I don't even want to imagine. Which is exactly why I think this is not been done as a matter of urgency.

The council / government / school / education board etc has a duty of care to my children. PLEASE TEST MY KIDS FOR POISONING.

This shouldn't be about protecting local authorities, councillors, government etc, this should be about clarity and hard facts. The lives of our children and community are at risk. This should never be a concern when your children are being educated.

I ask again, PLEASE TEST THE GROUNDS, WATER, PUPILS AND STAFF AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

I await your response.

[REDACTED]

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2019 16:00:37
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose & Buchanan Schools

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel: [REDACTED]

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From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 19 June 2019 15:04
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: St Ambrose & Buchanan Schools

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Govanhill Workspace
Unit 3, 69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

All other enquiries to nicola.sturgeon@snp.org<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon@snp.org>>

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 11:32:35 AM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
Subject: St Ambrose & Buchanan Schools

Good morning,

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read my email.

I am writing to request that as part of the independent review the pupils be screened and that the site, environment and air be tested.

Our community needs this as it is the only way to provide any reassurances.

Thank you in advance,

[REDACTED]

*

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18397

10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2019 10:25:08
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose / Buchanan High School

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 June 2019 20:28
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: St Ambrose / Buchanan High School

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 18 June 2019 at 18:48:05 BST
To:
Fulton,MacGregor.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:Fulton.MacGregor.msp@parliament.scot>>,
Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot>>,
Cackette@gov.scot<<mailto:Cackette@gov.scot>>,
Nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:Nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>,
John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>>,
CabSecHS@gov.scot<<mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot>>
Subject: St Ambrose / Buchanan High School

I write to you regarding the refusal of testing / screening our children, the staff and campus site in its current state.

The review needs to include the children and staff to be screened and the site , environment and air to be tested .This testing is urgent and needs to be carried out on all children and staff prior to the summer holidays.

As a parent of two children who attend school at the above named campus I am truly

disgusted that my children and I have been subject to this disgraceful situation.

Regards


Sent from my iPhone

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-

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2019 10:25:29
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose and Buchanan High

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 June 2019 20:23
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: St Ambrose and Buchanan High

Dear First Minister

I'm sure you would agree that the future of Scotland is our children. I would ask you to support the testing of pupils and staff, at both schools, before the holidays. If all those in power are 100% confident everything is safe, test and put this very worrying problem to rest.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2019 10:26:06
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose and Buchanan High school, coatbridge

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 18 June 2019 20:47
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: St Ambrose and Buchanan High school, coatbridge

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Unit 3
Govanhill Workspace
69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 5:54:21 PM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
Subject: St Ambrose and Buchanan High school, coatbridge

Hi, [REDACTED]. As a parent I am very concerned with the situation and I think the only way of reassuring parents is for each child to be tested for toxins. As well as these tests I think it is only right that the site is also tested including the air.

[REDACTED]

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2019 10:26:28
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose High

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 19 June 2019 08:56
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: St Ambrose High

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Unit 3
Govanhill Workspace
69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 6:48:07 AM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
Subject: St Ambrose High

Good morning,

[REDACTED] I welcome the review of the site.

However, in order to reassure me, testing of my child is of the utmost importance as is testing the site. Nothing short of this will suffice.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Regards

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted line]

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2019 10:32:15
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose High School

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2019 10:06
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; alex.neil.msp@parliament.scot; david.linden.mp@parliament.uk; fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.scot; hugh.gaffney.mp@parliament.uk; maurenn.mckenna@glasgow.gov.uk; nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot; Cackette PH (Paul) <Paul.Cackette@gov.scot>

[REDACTED]
Subject: St Ambrose High School

Dear all,

I am contacting you with regards to the ongoing issues at St Ambrose High school, Coatbridge.

This week it was reported in the media that a S3 female pupil from St Ambrose High was found to have very high levels of arsenic in her body as a result of testing at hospital. As far as I am aware this is the second case of a high level of arsenic found in a child at this campus.

As a result of this, I have not felt confident that the school is a safe environment for my child and have kept her at home.

It is now Wednesday 19th June 2019 and there has been no further response or update to the second case of high arsenic in a child at this campus from North Lanarkshire Council, the NHS Public Health, the School or the Scottish Government.

I am concerned at the lack of further information and that there has been no immediate emergency action taken to protect the children and staff at this campus.

Why can the school not have a full environmental investigation and all pupils and staff screened?

How many children, staff or others affected with a high arsenic level does it take for immediate full investigation and protective action?

I look forward to a prompt response.

Regards,

[Redacted signature]

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18406..

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2019 10:33:48
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose high school

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 June 2019 22:12
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: St Ambrose high school

Dear Nicola

As a parent of a pupil of St Ambrose high school, my concerns have grown that there has not been urgent and NEW testing of pupils, staff, soil, air and water. Urgent testing before the summer break is surely a must to assure that there either is no issue or there is an issue but will be resolved with immediate effect. The likelihood of illness has increased with four teachers and pupils reportedly being ill, the consequences would be high if action is not taken now. Early detection is the key to ensure we give our children and staff the support/answers they deserve.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2019 10:48:43
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Very worried parent

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 18 June 2019 20:45
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Very worried parent

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Unit 3
Govanhill Workspace
69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 6:45:28 PM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
Subject: Fwd: Very worried parent

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 18 June 2019 at 18:42:02 BST
To:

Nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scott<mailto:Nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot
▷
Subject: Fwd: Very worried parent

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 18 June 2019 at 18:25:26 BST

To:

Nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scott<mailto:Nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot
▷

Subject: Very worried parent

PLEASE HELP US.

[REDACTED]
at St Ambrose High school in Coatbridge, please help us get new testing carried out on
the grounds of the school as part of the review and get our children tested. Only this
would restore public confidence. Kind regards, A

VERY WORRIED PARENT

Sent from my iPhone

*

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18055.

(24)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 June 2019 18:00:02
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose High School

[REDACTED]
MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 June 2019 17:56
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot<<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
Subject: St Ambrose High School

Good afternoon First Minister

Firstly I would like to thank you and your Ministers for your support to our children and staff at St Ambrose high school, Coatbridge. This is indeed a period of uncertainty and concern, and I welcome the independent review being established.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It is a fabulous school [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] with dedicated hard working teachers providing a wealth of experiences and opportunities to enrich the classroom. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] S.
[REDACTED]

I shall keep his symptoms brief ;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am concerned about the school land. I am concerned that there is something North Lanarkshire Council have failed to do with their initial testing and certainly with their now known lack of continuing monitoring and testing. I am concerned the remedial actions to ?decontaminate? have not been adequate and there is now a murky cocktail of carcinogenic chemicals breaching barriers put in place. Given the cluster of Cancer

diagnosis and numbers of parents standing up to be counted at the public meeting on the 6th June with children with the same symptoms [REDACTED] (around 1/3 of the approx. 500 people there) , I am concerned this is the tip of iceberg. Is St Ambrose and Buchanan campus the new Erin Brockovich?

I look forward to the independent review asking for full site analysis on the ?as is?. Without testing children and staff I feel we will never know the extent. We can?t base what is happening now on data provided in the past by NLC. Things change over time. Cancer has no rule book. Latency periods can increase. Chemicals can interact together to form toxic compounds. Ground does shift and sink and settle.

I would like to extend my thanks to Fulton Macgregor MSP, Alex Neil MSP and Neil Gray MP for their continued support through this, I often see attempts by others to cast negative aspersions on Ministers work, indeed [REDACTED] p [REDACTED] , and frustratingly detracts from the very good work going on within your Government.

NLC have in my eyes failed in their duty of care here , and I am grateful to you for calling this independent review so quickly to clarify the position at our schools.

It is heart breaking to see this fantastic school, with its dedicated staff and leader, at its knees.

[REDACTED]

*

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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan c?mhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mh?in. Chan eil e ceadaichte a chleachdadh ann an d?igh sam bith, a? toirt a-steach c?raichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma ?s e is gun d?fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd?, bu choir cur ?s dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun d?il. Dh?fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chl?radh neo air a sgr?dadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-?ifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh?fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a? phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 June 2019 09:06:12
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Parents rights to test own children

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 June 2019 07:17
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot<<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
Subject: Fw: Parents rights to test own children

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone<<https://overview.mail.yahoo.com/?src=iOS>>
Begin forwarded message:

On Friday, June 14, 2019, 7:15 am, [REDACTED]

Good morning,

With regards to the ongoing situation in Coatbridge & the high schools being St Ambrose & Buchanan High I have no other option but to write to yourself.

I have been trying to arrange for [REDACTED] to attend a private hospital or doctor for blood tests as his symptoms have been persistent since attending the school 4 years ago. I'm willing to pay for those service privately but I'm not allowed to test my own child. I have been passed through GP's, public health departments, surgery manager and all to no avail. I am being refused to have my own child tested. I'm sure you're aware the school breaks up in less than 2 weeks, the levels in these kids will reduce or disappear when they are out of school, is this their aim? No kids will be tested before schools out?

I'm afraid the smokescreens getting thicker in parents eyes & it's hard not to feel everyone's in this together & slammig doors in our faces at every turn.

I'm extremely disappointed that my right as a parent to test my child for anything at

all when it's at a cost to myself is being denied!!!!

As far as I was aware any NHS or medical professionals have a duty of care to any patient, they take an oath to care for people not to take orders from the Scottish Government

Any help or advice would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards



Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone<<https://overview.mail.yahoo.com/?src=iOS>>

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 June 2019 15:15:03
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose/Buchanan High

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 13 June 2019 14:51
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: St Ambrose/Buchanan High

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Govanhill Workspace
Unit 3, 69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

All other enquiries to nicola.sturgeon@snp.org<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon@snp.org>>

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 11:19:13 PM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
Subject: St Ambrose/Buchanan High

Sent from my iPhoneDear Nicola

Firstly I'd like to thank you for all you have done for us over this mess with the schools.

I was just wondering if you could clarify if this breakthrough tonight will include fresh testing of the air, water, soil and structure of the building? Also are you any further on with getting our children tested?

To let you understand [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

It's not something I want to do as the teaching staff are amazing but I know if I worked there I'd be looking for another job, so what do we do? At this rate the school will have no kids or teachers. Can you please keep up the fight with our help to get the answers we desperately need

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

*

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From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 12 June 2019 09:44:37
 To: Public Engagement Unit
 Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
 Subject: FW: St Ambrose High

[REDACTED]
 PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an OR.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
 Deputy Private Secretary
 Ministerial Private Office (Health)
 St Andrew's House
 Edinburgh

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From: Freeman J (Jeane), MSP
 <Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot>
 >
 Sent: 12 June 2019 09:17
 To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
 <CabSecHS@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot>>
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: Fwd: St Ambrose High

FYI

Jeane Freeman MSP
 Member for Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley
 Constituency Office: 01290 425876
 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745
 jeanefreeman.scot | @JeaneF1MSP
 FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

From: [REDACTED] m>>
 Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 11:28:36 PM
 To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills;
 elaine.ballantyne@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:elaine.ballantyne@glasgow.gov.uk>;
 james.coleman@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:james.coleman@glasgow.gov.uk>;

phillip.charles@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:phillip.charles@glasgow.gov.uk>;
maureen.mckenna@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:maureen.mckenna@glasgow.gov.uk>;
Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP; Mason J (John), MSP; Neil A (Alex), MSP;
fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.uk<mailto:fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.uk>;
chancellor@rcdom.org.uk<mailto:chancellor@rcdom.org.uk>; Freeman J (Jeane),
MSP

Subject: St Ambrose High

Dear Sirs/ Madam

I am writing to request your assistance with the current health and safety issues over the school premises at St Ambrose High .The lack of information from North Lanarkshire Council has been inexcusable given the understandably growing concern from parents , children and staff.

As parents my wife and I have found ourselves in the dreadful position of playing Russian Roulette with our son's health and education. Having to explain to a [REDACTED] that we have made the decision to keep him away from school, his classmates , his teachers and other friends because the building may be unsafe is dreadful, particularly when we cannot give him a full explanation.

The information supplied at the recent public forum has fuelled massive concern with little or no reassurances provided other than "we have nothing to worry about." We find ourselves with no credible answers to why 4 unrelated people have developed a rare form of bladder cancer, no credible answers to why numerous unrelated children have similar poor health conditions of muscle fatigue, aching joints,blinding headaches and nosebleeds and no credible answers to why the ground around the buildings are moving , shifting and warping (beyond normal settling).

We are looking for an independent investigation into the suitability of the site being fit for purpose. We want reassurances, following testing of the children and staff, that that their health has not been compromised or is at risk.

The time for action is now

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

*

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17795

36

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2019 10:12:01
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Current situation at St Ambrose /Buchanan high campus Coatbridge

[REDACTED]
MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
<Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>>
Sent: 11 June 2019 19:07
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot<<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
Subject: Fwd: Current situation at St Ambrose /Buchanan high campus Coatbridge

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Govanhill Workspace
Unit 3, 69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

All other enquiries to nicola.sturgeon@snp.org<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon@snp.org>>

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<https://ico.org.uk/>

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 5:31:48 PM

To: Mason J (John), MSP; Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP; Neil A (Alex), MSP;
fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.scot>; hugh.gaffney.mp@parliament.scot<mailto:hugh.gaffney.mp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Current situation at St Ambrose /Buchanan high campus Coatbridge

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 11 June 2019 at 16:26:30 BST

To: dfmcse@gov.scot<mailto:dfmcse@gov.scot>, elaine.ballantyne@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:elaine.ballantyne@glasgow.gov.uk>, james.coleman@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:james.coleman@glasgow.gov.uk>, phillip.charles@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:phillip.charles@glasgow.gov.uk>, maureen.mckenna@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:maureen.mckenna@glasgow.gov.uk>, nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>, alex.neil.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:alex.neil.msp@parliament.scot>, fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.scot>, hugh.gaffney.mp@parliament.uk<mailto:hugh.gaffney.mp@parliament.uk>, chancellor@rcdom.org.uk<mailto:chancellor@rcdom.org.uk>, john.mason.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:john.mason.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Current situation at St Ambrose /Buchanan high campus Coatbridge

I am writing to you in the hope you can help with my serious concerns surrounding both St Ambrose and Buchanan high schools with regards to the campus being built on what was once possibly a toxic landfill site. My daughter is [REDACTED] at St Ambrose high school. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I know lots of other pupils have been experiencing similar symptoms and that at least 4 teachers have developed a rare type of bladder cancer. The meeting which took place on Thursday night did nothing to allay parents concerns and in fact has made them even more convinced that something isn't right. Myself and the other parents feel it is not unreasonable to request an independent investigation into the safety of the site and request that all pupils and teachers are tested for heavy metal build up in their system. Until this situation is resolved I'm sure you can understand my reluctance to send my daughter to school, however I am willing to take that decision as her health is the most important thing.

I look forward to your prompt response .

Regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

*

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1784-2 .

38

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2019 14:41:23
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: St Ambrose High School concerns

[REDACTED]
PEU [REDACTED]

Hi For MACCS, MR

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney MSP
| Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills |
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel. [REDACTED]
| E: DFMCS@gov.scot<mailto:DFMCS@gov.scot>

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[REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2019 23:36
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<DFMCS@gov.scot<mailto:DFMCS@gov.scot>>;
elaine.ballantyne@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:elaine.ballantyne@glasgow.gov.uk>;
james.coleman@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:james.coleman@glasgow.gov.uk>;
phillip.charles@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:phillip.charles@glasgow.gov.uk>;
maureen.mckenna@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:maureen.mckenna@glasgow.gov.uk>;
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>;
john.mason.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:john.mason.msp@parliament.scot>;
alex.neil.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:alex.neil.msp@parliament.scot>;
fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.scot>;
>; hugh.gaffney.mp@parliament.uk<mailto:hugh.gaffney.mp@parliament.uk>;
david.linden.mp@parliament.uk<mailto:david.linden.mp@parliament.uk>;
chancellor@rcdom.org.uk<mailto:chancellor@rcdom.org.uk>
Subject: St Ambrose High School concerns

Dear all,

I refer to the recent coverage concerning the St Ambrose campus, and contact you as a

concerned parent.

I would hope by now that you are aware of the numerous health issues that surround the campus, with the most serious being 4 teachers (3 who taught in the same corridor) all being diagnosed with bladder cancer, a pupil at Buchanan High School who has now lost his sight, and numerous children all suffering from the same conditions of headaches, nose bleeds and stomach cramps. This is on the back of the 'blue water' that the school has had for a number of years.

At a recent meeting at the school, the issue of the 4 teachers who had been diagnosed with bladder cancer was dealt with rather dismissively by Dr David Cromie, the consultant in public health medicine for NHS Lanarkshire. In Scotland, there were 832 cases of bladder cancer diagnosed in 2012. The incidence of bladder cancer in Scotland was 10 per 100,000 head of population in 2011. Buchanan High School has a maximum of 30 staff.

The young boy [REDACTED] who has been advised that he will never regain his sight, was eventually tested and found to have 3 times the normal level of arsenic in his urine. There is also serious concern amongst parents that one corridor in particular in St Ambrose High School causes similar symptoms in many of our children, predominantly severe and lasting headaches.

As a result of these unprecedented incidents, the history of the site, information that cannot be found by SEPA after a FOI request, and with parents now discovering that our children share common health complaints, I am requesting the following to be actioned as a matter of the utmost urgency.

* That all staff and pupils be given access to appropriate testing by NHS for heavy metals in their blood. This has to be sanctioned by the Health minister, and GPs at this time are refusing to carry out this test.

* That an immediate and fully independent report is commissioned by the Government on all of the land that is used by the campus, rather than the selective nature which seems to have been carried out before building was previously completed.

I am aware that many parents, including myself, have taken the decision to remove our children from the school in the interim. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly, and we need this situation resolved immediately not only for the reassurance with regards to the health, safety and wellbeing of the pupils and staff, but also to ensure that the disruption to the education of our children is minimised. We will not allow any public body to gamble with the lives of our children.

Kind Regards

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17844

40

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2019 14:41:51
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: St Ambrose and Buchanan High Schools - Coatbridge -
Contamination of land and water

[REDACTED]

PEU

Hi For MACCS. MR

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on |Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney MSP
| Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills |
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG |Tel: [REDACTED]
E: DFMCSSE@gov.scot<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2019 12:18
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<DFMCSE@gov.scot<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>>;
Elaine.ballantyne@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:Elaine.ballantyne@glasgow.gov.uk>;
James.coleman@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:James.coleman@glasgow.gov.uk>;
Maureen.mckenna@glasgow.gov.uk<mailto:Maureen.mckenna@glasgow.gov.uk>;
Nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>;
john.mason.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:john.mason.msp@parliament.scot>;
alex.neil.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:alex.neil.msp@parliament.scot>;
fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:fulton.mcgregor.msp@parliament.scot>;
hugh.gaffney.mp@parliament.uk<mailto:hugh.gaffney.mp@parliament.uk>;
david.linden.mp@parliament.uk<mailto:david.linden.mp@parliament.uk>;
chancellor@rcdom.org.uk<mailto:chancellor@rcdom.org.uk>
Subject: St Ambrose and Buchanan High Schools - Coatbridge - Contamination of
land and water

Dear Sir/Madam

I am sure that you are well aware of the current public and staff concerns about ground, air and water safety at the above schools.

I am a very concerned parent of a child who currently attends St Ambrose High and is now in [REDACTED]. I also have another child who attends [REDACTED].

The current media attention has highlighted a number of very worrying concerns about the safety and suitability of the site, as it is a well known brownfield site with toxins such as lead, arsenic, nickel, and potentially cadmium present in the ground.

Parents were advised by North Lanarkshire Council that correct remediation of the land was carried out at the time of building in 2010, but no further information has been provided by North Lanarkshire Council on annual land testing since the remediation took place. In addition, a public meeting was held on Thursday 6th June, to which SEPA representatives did not attend. This, in itself does nothing to allay parent concerns.

Given the number of pupils in the school who are suffering from similar symptoms, which are known to be linked to brownfield sites and related toxins, together with 4 staff members of Buchanan High having bladder cancer, I am writing this email to insist that the government undertakes to commission an independent report immediately.

I have no option but to withdraw my child from this school on health and safety grounds, until such times that I feel the necessary independent testing and results are made available to the public.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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17865

42

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2019 14:41:35
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: St Ambrose/Buchanan High Schools

[REDACTED]

PEU

Hi For MACCS. MR

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney MSP
| Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills |
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] E: DFMCSSE@gov.scot<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2019 11:52
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<DFMCSE@gov.scot<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>>
Subject: St Ambrose/Buchanan High Schools

Dear John Swinney,

[REDACTED], My [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] attends Buchanan High School, situated in Coatbridge. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] it has been a very hard decision that we have made to stop him
attending school for the rest of this term due to the issues surrounding the school
campus.
The issues we are most concerned about are the possibility of contaminated soil and
air as well as the water. [REDACTED]

We attended the public meeting last Thursday and came away even more scared for
[REDACTED] health and safety than we were before the meeting.
I'm writing to ask for your support in getting all staff and children tested for toxins in

their system, and an investigation into the school and the ground it is built on,
completely independent from any council input.
I hope you understand the anguish and extreme anxiety this is having on us as parents
and other family members.

[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail<<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=550986>> for Windows 10

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17516

(44)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2019 10:01:37
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose High

[REDACTED]
MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2019 21:00
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: St Ambrose High

Please help us!

Sent from my iPhone

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17517

46

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2019 10:01:25
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose

[REDACTED]
MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2019 23:28
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot<<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
Subject: St Ambrose

First minister I attend st Ambrose high school. I feel like the teachers and staff and the council are ignoring the questions we ask and all I want is an answer. After hearing these story's about the teachers getting cancer and a boy going blind I am scared to attend school I would ask that the question is answered what is wrong with the school ? I realise you personally will not be able to answer this question so I ask this is looked into as soon as possible. [REDACTED]

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17521.

48

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2019 09:16:06
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: maccs

[REDACTED]
PEU

Hi, for MACCS. Urgent response please.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney MSP
| Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills |
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | E: <mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2019 10:21
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>>
Subject: St Ambrose High/Buchanan High

Hi,

I am writing, as are many other concerned parents, about the ongoing situation at both St Ambrose High & Buchanan High. I am hoping for your support in our quest to have every child, teacher and member of staff screened to rule out any health issues which could be caused from any contamination from the reported blue water, topsoil or air pollution. I believe this is the only course of action that all concerned will accept.

Furthermore I would be most grateful for your support in our quest to have an immediate, independent investigation report of the site to test top soil, air pollution and water, there seems to be a reluctance from North Lanarkshire Council in releasing annual reports with this information on.

I look forward to your reply.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

T
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2019 10:02:04
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose high school

[REDACTED]
MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

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From: Nicola Sturgeon
<Nicola.Sturgeon@snp.org<<mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon@snp.org>>>
Sent: 07 June 2019 20:20
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot<<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
Subject: Fwd: St Ambrose high school

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Govanhill Workspace
Unit 3, 69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

All other enquiries to nicola.sturgeon@snp.org<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon@snp.org>>

Nicola Sturgeon MSP is registered as a data controller with the UK Information Commissioner. Any personal data you provide will be handled under the requirements of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. If you would like to find out how your data is collected and used or what your rights are in relation to this data, please reply to this email requesting a copy of the office privacy notice. If you would like more information on GDPR please visit

<https://ico.org.uk/>

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, June 7, 2019 6:43:26 PM
To: Nicola Sturgeon
Subject: St Ambrose high school

Dear mrs sturgeon myself and all the parents at st Ambrose / buchan high school really need your help please. As you might no st Ambrose high and buchan high are having major issues with the water supple the water turned blue and instead of parents been notified the teachers where all slapped with gagging orders from our completely incompetent local council which is north Lanarkshire but the story was eventually released when 4 teachers have now been diagnosed with a very rare bladder cancer and a wee boy has lost his eye sight !! He had extremely large amounts of led in his blood. These schools are built on land that used to be a toxic waste dump for the old iron and steel works nothing should ever have been built on this land but north Lanarkshire council was adamant that it was safe and now all this has happened parents are now pulling there children out of school as we are all terrified for our children's life's. North Lanarkshire councillors are trying to palm us all off by saying that there is nothing wrong!! Well I am sorry but when 4 teachers who worked in the same corridor in a school that has blue water in it and a child losing their eye sight !! Then I seriously think there is something majorly wrong. Our council are an absolute joke !! And no help whatsoever!! Some parents are starting a go fund page to raise money to get an independent land survey done but I think this is absolutely ridiculous that the parents are having to do this our council should be doing everything on there power to get to the bottom of this rather than try to save there own ass's!! there are hundreds of children's life's at stake including teachers and staff at theses schools. Please please we really need your help we are all literally at breaking point. Thank you.

Regards,

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17525

52

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2019 10:03:32
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose High School Coatbridge

[REDACTED]
MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2019 13:17
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: St Ambrose High School Coatbridge

Dear First Minister

I am writing this email as I am deeply concerned about the health & wellbeing of my [REDACTED] daughter that attends this high school & also the other pupils & staff. I have signed the petition for all staff & pupils to be tested to ensure they have a clean bill of health.

This test has to be carried out ASAP. The school should not be open until all parents are satisfied that they are sending their precious children to a safe place to be educated.

I am disgusted at how North Lanarkshire Council have tried to sweep this under the rug & play down the fears of pupils & staff. These children are our future & as parents we deserve to be listened too.

This is a potential National Health disaster & does not bode well for the Scottish Parliament if they are seen to be doing nothing.

Best Regards

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2019 10:05:44
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Urgent - St Ambrose Situation

[REDACTED]
MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2019 16:01
To: Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot><<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
Cc: david.linden.mp@parliament.uk<<mailto:david.linden.mp@parliament.uk>>; Fulton.Macgregor.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:Fulton.Macgregor.msp@parliament.scot>>
Subject: Urgent - St Ambrose Situation
Importance: High

Dear Nicola,

I am writing to you as a concerned parent and teacher and I hope you are able to help.

[REDACTED] due to commence [REDACTED] Secondary Education at St Ambrose High School in Coatbridge, where I am sure you are aware there have been issues raised over the safety of the water and the air.

There was a meeting held last week, which I was unable to attend [REDACTED] however many of my friends were there and the outcome of the meeting was so

concerning I felt I had to write to you personally.

From the information we have been given and that I have read there appears to be 2 key issues:

(1) The visible problem of the blue water

This issue seems to be finally being addressed by the pipes being replaced throughout the campus. The worry about this is that the council gave dates of when the water started to change colour, and at the meeting a janitor at the school said this was untrue and that the blue water had been in existence for a few years prior to it actually being acknowledged by the Council. There is concern that there is still further problems in the water system.

(2) The invisible danger of the air pollution

For me this is the worrying one as this is one we cannot see. With the methane detector going off previously and all the cases of nausea, stomach cramps, headaches etc that are all symptoms of potential methane poisoning, this surely should demand further investigations.

Having read the articles from Professor Andrew Watterson I simply cannot understand why with evidence that the ground is moving, increased reporting of symptoms and the methane detector, nothing has been done sooner. Surely this should warrant further independent investigations.

Way Forward

My perception is that there is no public confidence in the information that has been provided and the reassurances given by NLC go nowhere near addressing the questions and concerns raised by worried parents and staff. The whole process has been badly mismanaged with parents feeling that their questions and concerns are not being taken seriously and I believe that we are now past the stage where council let reassurances are sufficient.

In terms of trying to rebuild this confidence I see there being 2 solutions that should be offered as soon as possible to try and limit any further uncertainty.

(1) Heavy metal toxicology blood tests

These should be offered to every pupil and member of staff immediately to test for chemicals found in soil and groundwater beneath the school including nickel, arsenic, benzene and benzoapyrene - as has been suggested by healthcare professionals. Whilst I understand that there would be costs involved in this amount of testing, it would provide evidence either way that either the school is safe, or the school is not safe. Plus at this point I don't think we can put a price on the health of our children.

My perception and that of other parents I have spoken to is that by not offering these tests, this implies that NLC are worried something would show up and so they are trying to hide something. I realise this may not be the case, but this is how it is looking to parents.

These tests must be done before the school finishes up for the holidays to ensure that the blood readings are accurate and fully represent the health of the pupils whilst they are at school, as any length of time away from the school may cause any chemicals to dilute or levels to drop or leave the blood stream. Again, if the tests were done over the holidays, this may look like the council were deliberately trying to avoid the true extent of what may come back.

There has also been a lot of talk online about doctors being told not to carry out blood tests, even if parents request them - this again has done nothing to quash suspicions and shows how badly mismanaged this whole situation has been.

People have now started looking into paying for private blood tests. This is concerning as this then will only be available to those who can afford it and is not inclusive in the slightest.

(2) Independent testing of the school grounds

Again, this should be done independently of the Council to try and rebuild some confidence from the parents. Professor Watterson seems an ideal candidate to be able to do this with his track record of working with the World Health Organisation. I totally agree with his summary about looking at why certain children were affected, whereas others weren't. If, as was stated at the meeting, there are still 5 hot spot areas underneath the school, then this is vital to ensuring the school is managed safely.

I don't understand that with a building of that size, which would suffer tremendous settlement I would imagine, that this was not overly checked considering the barrier underneath is holding all these chemicals in place. Surely with the ground movement and the evidence from the janitorial staff, this should have been a red flag that something wasn't quite right.

Rebuilding Trust

Again, I can only speak from the interactions I have had with parents online and face to face, but my perception is that the parents believe the health and wellbeing of their children has been belittled and is not being taken seriously. Even if the school is perfectly safe, which I hope it is, NLC have not managed this in the most positive fashion. There is so much open to interpretation as a cover up, and when you are dealing with the lives of so many individuals - pupils and staff, this cannot happen.

The school is 3rd in the league table for attainment within NLC, and has an amazing reputation which the parents are very proud of. No-one wants to keep their children off, as the attendance is vital to them achieving the maximum amount of learning they can to stand in good stead for moving on. However parents are now left in such a dilemma with whether to send their children, or now where to send their children and this is incredibly unfair. NLC should have done more earlier on to calm people's concerns and address the questions openly and honestly.

The apparent lack of transparency is worrying, and I have [redacted] children who are due to attend the school. [redacted]. Whilst I know of several parents now seeking placing requests to other schools, for me, as a teacher and a parent, I believe this would be incredibly unsettling for my children.

I would much prefer to try and raise the concerns I have and work with parties involved to rectify the situation to allow everyone to get back to their normal school again.

You may have seen or heard, but there is a huge movement happening online with Facebook pages, WhatsApp groups etc with people voicing their support. The petition itself raised over 5000 signatures in just a little over 12 hours and it is rising.

I know that you very much value the health and education of our children here in Scotland, and when I read that you had offered a public inquiry that was reassuring to know someone was taking it seriously. Then when I researched it online, I saw that was back in 1st February. We are now at the 9th June and I don't see any sign of this public inquiry.

What do I aim to achieve from this letter?

- (1) I would like a response to let me know if the pupil and staff testing will go ahead to put parents and staff minds at rest.
- (2) I would like to know when the public inquiry will take place and reassurances that it will be independent specialists who will be involved.
- (3) I would like reassurances that the ground at the school will be fully checked, and there will be total transparency of what is found, if anything is found.
- (4) Again I would like to see clarity and transparency from both the Government and the Council about how this situation will progress and start to build up trust again.

I would be happy to discuss any of the points raised in my letter with yourself or anyone at your office and to keep everyone in the loop I have also copied in David Linden and Fulton MacGregor. I will also be raising this with other members of the Scottish Parliament as this is an issue that cannot be ignored and needs to be given

urgent attention. Please feel free to contact me at this email address.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and as the window of opportunity is very short, with there only being 3 weeks left of term, I would appreciate a swift reply.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

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17732

58

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2019 17:59:22
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose High/Buchanan High schools

[REDACTED]
MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2019 14:05
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot<<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
Subject: Fwd: St Ambrose High/Buchanan High schools

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 11 June 2019 at 13:55:22 BST
To: Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>
>
Subject: St Ambrose High/Buchanan High schools

Sent from my iPhone

You may be aware of the issue regarding the 'blue water' and toxic land on which the above campus has been built.

One of [REDACTED] Ambrose high. As you can imagine myself along with every other parent are extremely worried regarding the health risks and lack of investigation by North Lanarkshire Council with regards to our concerns.

I have made a very difficult decision to keep my son off school at the moment as I am

in fear for his long term health if he remains in an environment that has not been tested for toxic substances and gases.

Hoping you are in a position to encourage an independent enquiry and pupil/staff testing to give myself and other parents piece of mind that when we send our children to school every morning they are going to a safe environment.

Yours sincerely



Sent from my iPhone

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17734.

60

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2019 18:00:58
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: St Ambrose HS School Coatbridge

[REDACTED]
MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2019 07:10
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot><<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
Subject: St Ambrose HS School Coatbridge

Dear Nicola

[REDACTED] attends St Ambrose hs Coatbridge and I am sure you are well aware of the news reports about this school. As a parent i want the best for my child and wish you to step in if possible and demand answers for the sake of our children. My [REDACTED]er
[REDACTED]ou
[REDACTED]

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

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For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 11 June 2019 18:01:13
 To: Public Engagement Unit
 Subject: FW: Saint Ambrose High School

[REDACTED]
 MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]
 Office of the First Minister
 Scottish Government
 5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
 Edinburgh EH1 3DG
 Tel [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 10 June 2019 15:25
 To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot<<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
 Subject: Saint Ambrose High School

Dear Nicola Sturgeon MSP,
 As a former pupil of Saint Ambrose high school in Coatbridge recent media coverage of what could be called a cover-up of contaminated water as well as the detection of high methane gas levels along with other toxic chemicals in the building since the year it opened is particularly shocking. It is absolutely abhorrent that a school and the staff within allowed this to happen for so long, isn't the job of an educator to prepare young minds for their future and not to allow them to be made ill by the very place that should have nurtured and taught them. The purpose of me contacting you is simple, I as well as many other people in this community want answers and an independent inquiry. Also, on a personal note my own health has been suffering for the past few years and the discovery of this happening in a place I went to for my education for 4 years may give the answers I've been looking for as my health issues seemed to appear out of nowhere and without cause. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Within the community, there are many cases of ill health that seem to have no direct cause such as a young man who had no ill health but lost his hair in a matter of weeks without cause or any formal diagnosis however, this may be explained by the high levels of lead detected in and around the school. Moreover, a story about this scandal that has recently come to light at a public meeting at the school has horrified me and most of the constituents of this town. This began in 2016 when the methane gas alarm in the school began going off at an alarming rate yet the school was never evacuated and when this alarm was raised to the headmistress her words were along the lines of the alarm is faulty. If this is true, this is even worse than I or anyone who lives in the area could have imagined. Finally,

as someone who is studying university-level science I have a comprehension of what's happening that many in my community, unfortunately, don't have so I am aware of the long-lasting side effects of exposure to these substances many of which can remain in the body for years. Also, my attempts to contact the school have been met with some hostility and I have not been able to get a response from anyone at the school including the headmistress. Any help or answers you could give me would be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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17503

64

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2019 09:49:10
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Concerned dad my kid not well all the time goes to buchanan high school

[REDACTED]

MACCS case please for OR

[REDACTED]

Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent: 09 June 2019 13:20
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot<<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
Subject: Concerned dad my kid not well all the time goes to buchanan high school

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This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

17512

66

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2019 09:57:25
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Pupil & Staff Testing & an Independent Inquiry at St Ambrose High School Site

[REDACTED]
MACCS case please for OR.

[REDACTED]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2019 22:17
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot<<mailto:firstminister@gov.scot>>>
Subject: Pupil & Staff Testing & an Independent Inquiry at St Ambrose High School Site

Dear First Minister

I am writing to you and on behalf of all parents involved, as a desperate mother like many others at the moment we just want a safe education for our children which is their basic human right and you are the one who can help. Sometimes in life, we need to take the bull by the horns and take control of a situation especially when officials in senior position play Russian roulette with our children's health and lives.

[REDACTED] attends St Ambrose High school in Coatbridge. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] You will be aware of the media coverage surrounding the blue contaminated water on the St Ambrose High and Buchanan school campus, of which we know four teachers have been diagnosed with a rare form of bladder cancer were three worked in the same corridor (3% of new cancer cases and is typical in people over age 85 and has been referred to as a cluster), a young male pupil in Buchanan school (this is an additional support needs school which is adjoined to St Ambrose High) who has lost his sight with abnormal levels of arsenic detected in his system.

I have woken up again this morning to open my eyes and remember the living nightmare which has been the last 2 weeks. This has been an extremely unsettling time for all my family but especially my children as they do not know when they will

be back at school receiving an education in a safe environment which they are rightly due. You see like many others, I withdrew my son from school last week as I have no confidence or believe the school environment and land is safe for my child or anyone else in fact including teachers, dinner ladies, janitors and the cleaners. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] decided he will be home schooled starting tomorrow we have no idea how we will do this but this is the extreme measure we need to take as parents to ensure no harm will come to our child now or in the future. My children cannot become a future statistic as we have a duty of care as does NLC, Head Teacher and the Scottish Government.

The school campus was opened in 2012 but prior to this it is was a former landfill site from 1945 to 1972. During the period of operation an estimated half a million tonnes of domestic refuse from Coatbridge was deposited at the site, in addition, 77,000 gallons of wet sewage and unspecified residue from Gartsherrie Iron Works were disposed of annually for an indeterminate period. Exceedances of nickel, lead, benzo(a)pyrene, arsenic, total cyanide and dibenzo(ah) anthracene were noted in made ground soil samples in multiple locations when the land was assessed prior to development.

There was a Public Health meeting held on Thursday 6th June at the campus which was opened by Fulton MacGregor MSP Coatbridge and chaired by North Lanarkshire Council (NLC). The panel included St Ambrose Head Teacher Ellen Douglas, Education Officer David Craig, Public Health Expert Dr David Chrome, NLC Environmental Expert Andrew McPherson and Head of Education Gerrard McLaughlan. As you can imagine it was a highly charged meeting with over 400 people attending. When I looked around the room that night and listened to the parents, I couldn't believe what I witnessed, there was a grown man crying in front of the panel questioning the replacement of water pipes and wanting answers, worry, fear and disbelief etched on parents faces, a mother with her face in her hands, a mother sobbing whilst standing in front of the room telling how her son had perfect vision before starting school but lost it in a few months of being at the school and abnormal levels of arsenic were discovered in his system (3 times more than recommended), a Head Teacher whose nerves look shattered and emotionally broke down when finishing answering her 1st question positioned to her. A panel who started out super confident and bullish at the beginning of the meeting but finished looking dishevelled, defeated and were no longer answering any questions. Parents looking at each other pleading for help but not knowing how to. A man desperately suggesting we the parents sort this, we will test the last and pay for it and begging NLC for permission. A dad stood up and asked for everyone to stand who has a child with symptoms and a sea of people standing responded. Too many parents saying the same thing that their kid was a healthy child before coming to the school but now suffers from nose bleeds, headaches, unusual fatigue, stomach cramps and more. Parents speaking with worry and anger demanding something be done but falling on deaf ears.

The meeting finished with David Craig, confirming they will be back in touch in due course but could not provide an expectation as to when this will be. My concern is this will be done in 'council time' and our kids could be half way through the next mid-term or even as late as the end of term before anything is remotely done. I do believe NLC will dig their heels every step of the way until someone from higher powers steps in which is you, First Minister.

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[REDACTED]
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t [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Thursday evening the panel stood in front of the crowd with the facts from a decade ago reassuring us the site is safe and our children are not exposed to any health risk. They discussed what remediation measures were undertaken and the risk assessment carried out before building took place. I have read the relevant documents to the best I can, I am not an expert in this field but I do believe the necessary safety work to ensure the site was safe for development happened. However, this was more than a decade ago and no further or regular testing of the site has been done since. I have learned, the school is subsiding, toilet pipes have burst due the movement, there are cavities in the school grounds which are getting bigger with passing time, large cracks within class rooms and the gym hall flooding on two occasions and having to be replaced. This is where I am concerned because if the building is moving does this mean the Geomembrane is compromised and the contamination of the land is no longer contained and has found a pathway?

Andrew McPherson, NLC Environmental Expert, told us on Thursday night the Blue Water was identified in 2017, whereas an ex janitor stood up and confirmed this was untrue and it was first seen in 2013. When asked by the room what happened between these years of NLC not knowing, not one member of the panel could answer why or where the negligence lies. They were lost.

One thing is certain, every parent wants their child to be screened for contamination, we need this for peace of mind. It is the moral thing to do and it is only right this is done for every pupil past and present. NLC confirmed on Thursday night no testing will be carried out. The Union has started to test the teachers this week in Buchanan school.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] then I thought what about all the other parents who are in the position of not having this choice and that isn't fair on them or their child. So, I started an online petition via change.org for all St Ambrose High and Buchanan School pupils to be screened and an Independent Inquiry of the campus carried out. This went viral last night to ask for public support to demand this action is taken by NLC and the Scottish Government.

We also need an Independent Inquiry carried out on the site by an independent body without fear or favour to learn if the campus is safe and does not impose a risk on human health and life.

At the time of writing this letter this morning, the petition had almost 4,000 signatures of support and it is still rising. Hugh Gaffney MP, Alex Neil MSP Airdrie and Fulton MacGregor MSP Coatbridge confirmed they will take this to Scottish Parliament to raise which I believe they will as they have the sincerest and best interest for all pupils, staff, parents, family and the wider community involved and affected. However, I had to write this letter to you because although they are helping us to seek the truth they would not be able to share the true extent as to how this is affecting real families in real life. Mine is just one story of hundreds of families going through the exact same thing at your front door step. We need you and your help and is why I have written to you because I know you are genuine, sincere and caring.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2019 14:55:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: St Ambrose High School, Coatbridge

[REDACTED]

I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly. The case at the bottom of this email trail needs to be responded to by tomorrow. Would it be possible for it to get added to maccs asap and assigned to myself?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Vaccination Policy Support Officer
Health Protection Division
Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2019 10:48
To: [REDACTED], Deputy First Minister and
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: St Ambrose High School, Coatbridge

Thank you. Can you please assign the case to [REDACTED] That's 3 we have now.

[REDACTED]

Head of Health Protection Policy, Directorate for Population Health, Scottish
Government
[REDACTED] Area 3E, St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2019 10:25
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<DFMCSE@gov.scot<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: St Ambrose High School, Coatbridge

Thanks for this [REDACTED] is leading on this from a health protection perspective so grateful if you could assign to her in the first instance or she can let you know within her team will be leading.

We'll aim to get you something tonight but of course this will all depend on the discussion at Cabinet this morning.

[REDACTED]
Interim Head of Health Protection Division
The Scottish Government
St Andrews House - [REDACTED]
Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel - [REDACTED]
Mobile - [REDACTED]
Website: Public Health Reform<<https://publichealthreform.scot/>>

[cid:image009.jpg@01D2FFC3.C9476290][Public Health reform]

From: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in Behalf Of
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Sent: 11 June 2019 09:12

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<DFMCSE@gov.scot<<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>>>>

Subject: FW: St Ambrose High School, Coatbridge

[REDACTED]
I think your team are taking the St Ambrose High School case forward, please let me know if that has changed. The DFM has asked for a reply to the below to be issued tomorrow so could we please have a draft by 4 O'clock today. If there is someone in specific dealing with all the correspondence on this case please let me know and I'll send the similar submissions directly to them.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney MSP
| Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills |
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]
E: DFMCSE@gov.scot<<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>>

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From: Swinney J (John), MSP
<John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>>>
Sent: 11 June 2019 07:24
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
<DFMCSE@gov.scot<<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>>>

Subject: Fwd: St Ambrose High School, Coatbridge

This will need a response by tomorrow.

J

John Swinney
MSP for Perthshire North

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 10:31:24 PM
To: Swinney J (John), MSP
Subject: St Ambrose High School, Coatbridge

Dear Mr Swinney, I am a very concerned parent who attended a small meeting tonight of similarly worried parents whose child or children attend St Ambrose.

[REDACTED] So I am shocked to learn of the issues with the school being built on a landfill site and the possible health implications this may bring. Sadly, it may already have affected some pupils and teachers.

[REDACTED] like all other parents expect my children to be educated in a safe and healthy environment. I therefore demand that you push for the Government to commission an independent toxicology report as a matter of urgency. I would expect with the school summer holidays looming, it is an ideal opportunity for tests to be carried out to the soil, air and water. Hopefully, the results of tests will alleviate all fears that every parent currently has.

However, I would also ask that should any test results be of concern, what contingencies be put in place for alternative educational accommodation in the area? I look forward to your support in this serious matter.

Yours

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[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Good Morning

My grandson is a pupil of Buchanan High School Coatbridge. As you may be aware , last night there was a community meeting regarding safety aspects at the school- more specifically the 'blue' water, methane levels and a spate of fairly rare cancers amongst the teachers.

I think it's fair to say that a lot of people left the meeting upset about the lack of information from the meeting. There were several MSP's supporting the parents and the press were also in attendance .

I would like to know the Scottish Governments 'opinion of what is happening at this school- the headmaster did not attend this meeting.

I believe the council has told local health authorities not to check pupils health- is this correct?

Thank you for any help as you can imagine parents , grandparents and the wider family members just want reassurance that the school water, grounds and air are safe for the children.

[Redacted]

U