

T: 0131-244 0943  
E: clare.morley@gov.scot

Sheena Devlin  
Director of Education and Children's Services  
Perth and Kinross Council  
137 Glover Street  
Perth  
PH2 0LQ

20 December 2018

Dear Ms Devlin,

**SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010: PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL – BALHOUSIE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I refer to your email of 5 November 2018 notifying Scottish Ministers of Perth and Kinross Council's decision of 31 October 2018 to implement the proposal to close Balhousie Primary School.

A three week period began on 31 October 2018 for any person to make a representation to Scottish Ministers requesting that the decision should (or should not) be called in by them for further investigation (as provided for by section 15(4) of the 2010 Act). That period expired on 20 November 2018 and two representations were received.

Under section 17 of the 2010 Act, the Scottish Ministers may only issue a call-in notice if it appears to them that the education authority may have failed:

- (a) in a significant regard to comply with the requirements imposed on it by (or under) this Act so far as they are relevant in relation to the closure proposal, or
- (b) to take proper account of a material consideration relevant to its decision to implement the proposal.

Having reviewed Perth and Kinross Council's Proposal Paper and Consultation Report, and after careful consideration of the representations received, the Scottish Ministers consider that Perth and Kinross Council has fulfilled its obligations under the 2010 Act and consequently have decided not to issue a call-in notice for this proposal.

Education Scotland's Report noted that the Council would need to provide reassurance to parents, children and staff from Balhousie Primary School that the school's existing links with the local community can be maintained and enhanced. The Council indicated in its Consultation Report that it would continue to engage with parents, pupils and staff to ensure

the school's existing links with the local community can be maintained and enhanced. It will be important, given the concerns raised by the community, that this work is continued and developed as part of the Council's transition planning.

Perth and Kinross Council may now implement its decision to close Balhousie Primary School in line with the timescales set out in its proposal paper.

Yours sincerely



**CLARE MORLEY**  
**School Infrastructure Unit**