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24 October 2019

Dear Mr Vance,

**SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010: HIGHLAND COUNCIL –
TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY, CRAIGHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, KNOCKBRECK PRIMARY
SCHOOL AND ST DUTHUS SPECIAL SCHOOL**

I refer to your email of 6 September 2019 notifying Scottish Ministers of Highland Council's decision of 5 September 2019 to implement the proposal to close Tain Royal Academy, Craighill Primary School, Knockbreck Primary School And St Duthus Special School.

A three week period began on 5 September 2019 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 25 September 2019 and no 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.

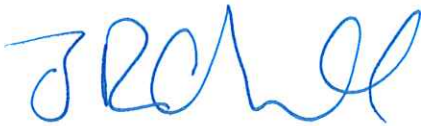
Having reviewed Highland Council's Proposal Paper and Consultation Report, the Scottish Ministers consider that Highland Council has fulfilled its obligations under the 2010 Act and consequently have decided not to issue a call-in notice for this proposal.

Education Scotland's Report noted that the Council would need to fully involve parents, staff, children and young people and the wider community in the final design and layout of the proposed 3-18 campus.

The Council indicated in its Consultation Report that it would continue to engage with the local community and other stakeholders in taking the proposal forward and determining the new designed campus. It is important that the Council continues this important work as it takes the proposal forward.

Highland Council may now implement its decision to close Tain Royal Academy, Craighill Primary School, Knockbreck Primary School And St Duthus Special School in line with the timescales set out in its proposal paper.

Yours sincerely,



Jerry O'Connell
WIR: School Funding, Infrastructure and Organisation