

T: 0131-244 8261
E: jerry.o'connell@gov.scot

Stuart Easingwood
Interim Service Director of Children and Young
People
Scottish Borders Council
Council Headquarters
Newtown St. Boswells
Melrose
TD6 0SA

22 October 2019

Dear Mr Easingwood,

**SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010: SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
–HOBKIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I refer to your email of 29 August 2019 notifying Scottish Ministers of Scottish Borders Council's decision of 29 August 2019 to implement the proposal to close Hobkirk Primary School.

A three week period began on 29 August 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 18 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 Scottish Borders Council's Proposal Paper and Consultation Report, the Scottish Ministers consider that Scottish Borders 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 continue to engage with the local community on the future of the school building and on the preservation of relevant school artefacts.

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 preserving school artefacts.

Scottish Borders Council may now implement its decision to close Hobkirk Primary School in line with the timescales set out in its proposal paper.

Yours sincerely,



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