

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 September 2017 12:40  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]:  
**Subject:** Online school

[REDACTED]

Thanks for this.

I tend to agree that use of online/virtual schools of the type outlined in [REDACTED]'s email broadly equates to 'other means' home educated children. And given that the learners and teachers could theoretically be anywhere (i.e. not solely based in Scotland) I also agree that it is probably beyond the scope of Ministers to regulate. I am not aware of any discussions or developments at Education Scotland about this type of online provision.

We are of course interested in the Western Isles' e-Sgoil but this platform is a blended online/offline approach and is being used to supplement the delivery of LA education and broaden access to the curriculum where there are geographical challenges. I would see this as a distinctly different approach to the online/virtual schools referenced below.

Happy to have a sit down and chat if that would be helpful.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

People Unit | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 September 2017 10:39  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Online school

[REDACTED]

I have been asked by the Bill team to provide some advice re virtual schools. You may recall [REDACTED] approached [REDACTED] re registering as an independent school and [REDACTED].

I have received the update from [REDACTED] below which includes the link to his online school. As you will see he is providing the English National Curriculum. It is interesting that he hasn't developed a program providing CfE and his website is very similar to others across the UK. While this delivery model is of interest to us the use of this type of education is a matter for individual parents and indeed they are used by parents who home educate. In accordance with section 30 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 parents have a legal duty to provide efficient education suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude either by causing him to attend a public school regularly or by other means. The Act does not define other means. Of course we know parents send their

children to independent schools and home educate. The former are registered and regulated by Scottish Ministers and the latter has legislation around withdrawal of a child from a local authority school to home educate and there is statutory guidance around this area.

If parents are choosing online/virtual school provision as an 'other means' regulating the quality of such services is surely beyond the scope of Scottish Ministers as potentially the provider could be anywhere in the UK or beyond. Parents may also choose to use a combination of online schooling with other provisions to deliver the practical aspects of their child's education which of course we would define such a parent as a home educator.

While I am not convinced we need legislation I think it will be interesting to see the outcomes achieved by the young people who are educated in this way and if [REDACTED] extends into the delivery of CfE how many will come through the SQA exam system. All a long way off I would suggest but interesting nevertheless. Not sure if there is any research/data available from down south as yet or the view of such provision by DfE.

I am aware of the e-learning project in the Western Isles and other projects in the independent sector who use online learning however has there been any wider discussions with ES colleagues around the development of online schools.

Happy to discuss.

[REDACTED]  
*Policy Officer*

*Empowering Schools Unit | People and Infrastructure Division | Learning Directorate | 2A South | Victoria Quay | EH66QQ*

*Aonad Cumhachdachadh Sgoiltean | Daoine agus Bun-structair | Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2-A Deas | Cidhe Bhictòria | EH6 6QQ*

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com]

**Sent:** 09 September 2017 10:00

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Online school

Hi [REDACTED],

many thanks for your email. The project has indeed progressed very well since we last spoke and this week we commenced our first live teaching lessons. The company has been rebranded and it is now named MyOnlineSchooling.com. We have enrolled 8 students to date and have 7 qualified teachers delivering lessons through our virtual classroom. We have a number of other students who will be joining in the coming weeks and there is also significant interest from families overseas in places such as South Africa, Iran, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore wishing to follow a British education system. Teachers deliver live lessons in a range of curricular areas. All coursework is set by teachers and it is completed electronically by students, returned to their teacher and all work is marked and feedback provided. Parents are able to communicate with their teachers and reports are sent home termly.

The interest in the school has been extremely pleasing with daily enquiries from parents looking for an alternative pathway for their child's education. Upon speaking to parents, it is evident that there are a large number of young people around the UK who are unable to attend school for a number of reasons. Bullying, exclusion, anxiety, social and emotional needs are some of the main reasons that parents are looking for an alternative education. There have also been a number of families who are looking for a distance learning approach as they are too far from schools they have been allocated by local authorities.

The feedback from our first lessons has been exceptional from both students and parents. The lessons have been very engaging and interactive and they allow for focused teaching and learning. Lessons are based on the English National Curriculum and teachers deliver them from set schemes of work.

It would be great to speak again about the project and see whether there is some way that this can be used to support young people in Scottish education.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Sep 5, 2017 at 8:59 AM, <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Hi [REDACTED]

You may recall we met at the meeting last November following your enquiry to register your online school as independent school. I was wondering how your project is progressing and whether you have developed sufficiently to provide an indication of interest in your venture.

If you would prefer to have a chat over the phone then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
Policy Officer

Empowering Schools Unit | People and Infrastructure Division | Learning Directorate | 2A South | Victoria Quay |  
EH66QQ  
Aonad Cumhachdachadh Sgoiltean | Daoine agus Bun-structair | Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2-A Deas | Cidhe  
Bhictòria | EH6 6QQ  
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach 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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[REDACTED]  
p: [REDACTED] m: a:  
s: [REDACTED]e: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] 30  
**Sent:** August 2017 09:54  
**To:** [REDACTED] FW:  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 December 2016 11:28  
**To:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED]

I think we agreed that it is for [REDACTED] to decide whether or not he wants to apply after he's decided exactly what he wants his offer to look like. Here's a link to the 1980 Act; grateful Alec if you can pass on - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/44>

No plans atm but it's something we'll need to consider.

[REDACTED]  
School Infrastructure Unit | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government  
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 December 2016 11:16  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Folks,

Just a quick note to say thanks for joining the meeting this morning, that was very useful and I know [REDACTED] appreciated your input as well.

[REDACTED]

I'm heading back shortly, but available on the BlackBerry if you want to catch up. I think I'm right in saying we agree that there is no need for any application from [REDACTED] at this stage and we'll keep a watching brief as [REDACTED] project progresses.

Interested to know if there are any plans to look at the legislation and policy further in the context of virtual schools?

Thanks again,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 August 2017 09:51  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Meeting: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 November 2016 11:11  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting: [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED]

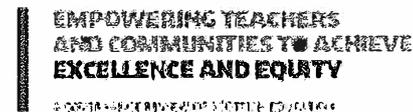
Please could you invite both Russell and I our calendars should be up-to-date. No particular dates to avoid although you will wish to be aware that the entries on mine relating to engagement events in Perth, Dunoon and Edinburgh are only for my info and I am not actually attending.

[REDACTED]  
*Policy Officer*

*Empowering Schools Unit | People and Infrastructure Division | Learning Directorate | 2A South | Victoria Quay | EH66QQ*

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[REDACTED][REDACTED]



**Get involved**  
**Education Governance Review 13th September – 6th January 2017**  
**#edgovrev**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 November 2016 11:02  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

I'd hoped to call you this morning, but the trains have let me down and I'm still travelling.

I'm hoping to have a meeting with [REDACTED] about the 'virtual' school quite soon and pin down the remaining details of his proposal. I spoke with him again last night and he's happy to meet in VQ as he's based in Edinburgh anyway.

I'll have a look at the diaries this afternoon and see what dates fit. I just wanted to confirm whether you'd like to attend, of there are any dates that wouldn't suit you, and if there's anyone else you'd like to attend [REDACTED] perhaps??

Hope all's well.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the O2 network.

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**Tel:** [REDACTED]  
**Mobile:** [REDACTED]  
**Address:** Optima Building, Glasgow

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 November 2016 11:30  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Online School Registration

Good morning [REDACTED]

I hope you had a good weekend.

I wondered whether we were able to alter our meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> slightly. I am due to fly out to New York on the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup> and I have just been notified that my flight timing has been changed slightly. I would therefore be able to meet up until 11am on 6<sup>th</sup> or alternatively, we could perhaps schedule another time before then. I am otherwise very flexible so please let me know when would suit you and your colleague.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
T[REDACTED]  
p: [REDACTED]  
T[REDACTED] e: [REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED] **Sent:** 11 November 2016 13:04  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Online School Registration

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm sorry, but that date no longer suits a colleague. Would 6 December at 1 pm be alright?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]-----

**Tel:** [REDACTED]-----  
**Mobile:** [REDACTED]  
**Address:** Optima Building, Glasgow

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 November 2016 12:33  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Online School Registration

Hi Alec,

Thanks for your email. December 1st at 11am suits perfectly. I look forward to meeting you then.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

On 11 Nov 2016, at 12:11, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Following our conversation earlier, I'd be obliged if you would confirm you're available for a meeting on Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 11am?

If so, please do let me know if you need directions to Victoria Quay or any particular arrangements for mobility.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] **Independent Schools**

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**Tel:** [REDACTED]  
**Mobile:** [REDACTED]  
**Address:** Optima Building, Glasgow

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 August 2017 09:57  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Online School Registration

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 October 2016 11:40  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Online School Registration

[REDACTED]

An interesting enquiry I think for you.

[REDACTED]  
*Policy Officer*

*Empowering Schools Unit | People and Infrastructure Division | Learning Directorate | 2A South | Victoria Quay | EH66QQ  
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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]*

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 October 2016 11:33  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Online School Registration

Hi [REDACTED]

I am a Teacher with over 10 years' experience in both state run and private education in the UK and New Zealand. My most recent position was teacher and Curriculum Leader for ICT in a large independent school in Auckland, New Zealand. I have just returned to the UK and I am looking to set up my own online learning academy for children from 9-18 years. I am in the process of establishing a website [REDACTED] (this is work in progress!). I would like to establish an online, independent school that delivers a chosen curriculum (perhaps National Curriculum or A Curriculum for Excellence) for children and young learners who cannot/don't attend a physical school for a number of reasons. I would very much like to deliver the curriculum through this platform which is delivered through WizIQ (used by my on line academies worldwide). It would be great to get in touch with someone who could advise me on the next steps to begin this initiative. I am particularly keen to know if it is possible/required to register an on line school. I am based in Edinburgh and the school will be operated from Edinburgh to a UK audience.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
T[REDACTED] Education p:  
[REDACTED]

T[REDACTED]



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