

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 November 2018 15:35
Subject: Letter from the Christian Institute on the Supporting Young Transgender People guidance
Importance: High

Directors of Education,

The Scottish Government has been contacted, this week, by several local authority colleagues who have received a letter from the Christian Institute.

This letter relates to endorsement of the guidance prepared by LGBT Youth Scotland, in conjunction with the Scottish Trans Alliance, called '*Supporting Transgender Young People: Guidance for schools in Scotland*'. Enquiries from local authority colleagues sought the Scottish Government's position on some of the issues raised in the Christian Institute's letter.

The Scottish Government responded to the initial letter from the Christian Institute earlier this year. The Minister for Older People and Equalities, Christina McKelvie MSP, has today reaffirmed the Scottish Government's position in the following statement:

"We recognise the particular disadvantage experienced by trans people across many walks of life and are supportive of all measures to increase inclusion in schools for pupils and staff alike. Scotland is recognised as one of the most progressive countries in Europe on LGBTI rights, and it is paramount we continue efforts to tackle all forms of prejudice, including any linked to gender identity.

The Scottish Government is supportive of the guidance produced by LGBT Youth Scotland on supporting young trans people. We did not take any decision to formally endorse the guidance as we do not take a prescriptive approach to the curriculum in Scotland. It is up to individual schools and local authorities how they deliver relevant and engaging learning, and who they work with to do so."

If any further clarification is required, please do get in touch.


Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Support and Wellbeing Unit | Learning Directorate | DG Learning and Justice | Scottish Government | Area 2-C North | Victoria Quay | EDINBURGH | EH6 6QQ |

[REDACTED]

 gov.scot

From: LAMONT, John
Sent: 07 August 2018 09:44:28
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: Email to John Swinney MSP

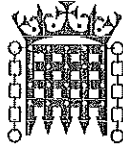
Attachments: Email to John Swinney MSP.pdf, For John Swinney [REDACTED]

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John Lamont MP



John Swinney MSP
Deputy First Minister & Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Scottish Government

BY EMAIL

August 2018

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Dear John

[REDACTED]

I have been contacted by my constituent, [REDACTED], to raise her concerns about the "proposed exposure of primary school children to gender reassignment guidance".

My constituent's letter is attached for your information.

I would be grateful if you could address my constituent's concerns please.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Lamont'.

John Lamont MP
Berwickshire, Roxburgh & Selkirk

The Office of John Lamont MP processes personal data in relation to casework, policy queries and communications. For further information about what the office does, the lawful basis for processing personal data, what we do with that data and what your rights are, please see the [Privacy Notice](#) on John Lamont MP's website.

John Lamont MP, 25 High Street, Hawick TD9 9BU
john.lamont.mp@parliament.uk
Telephone: 01450 375948

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

22nd July 2018

Dear Mr Lamont,

I am writing to express my deep concern at the proposed exposure of primary school children to gender reassignment guidance.

While an adult is able to make objective choices regarding their sexual identity, children of primary school age lack this ability, are inexperienced and lack discernment.

Gender is a biological fact and not a social construct. This is a totally misguided and ill-thought out objective.

The Scottish Government backtracked over its prominent endorsement of guidance for schools that transgender rights are more important than the rights of other children and parents.

For example, it was proposed that parents should not be told if their daughter was required to share a room overnight with a boy who self-identifies as a girl.

By ignoring the existing law, this guidance was misleading schools, parents and pupils into believing transgender rights trump the rights of everyone else.

Local authorities need to be challenged if they continue to endorse this guidance.

Also, I am extremely concerned that the NHS is proposing to give gender altering drugs to nine year olds, plus giving puberty blocking drugs to autistic teenagers.

It would be a tragedy if twenty years from now people who are not transgender have been stuck on this medical pathway because NHS

personnel are told not to challenge young people who say they are transgender.

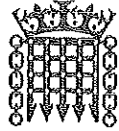
[REDACTED]

Your sincerely,

[REDACTED]

(I have also sent this letter to [REDACTED])

DAVID DUGUID MP
Member of Parliament for Banff and Buchan



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

John Swinney MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

01 October 2018

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

[REDACTED]

Transgender Young People guidance for schools

I attach the email that I have received from my constituent, [REDACTED]. As you can see, he is clearly very concerned about the fact that the Scottish Government is supportive of the guidelines for young trans-gender people. He feels that this is an attempt to indoctrinate primary school age children with ideas about gender ideology.

I would be very grateful for your comments on the points that [REDACTED] raises with me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Duguid', written in a cursive style.

David Duguid
Member of Parliament for Banff and Buchan
David.duguid.mp@parliament.uk

20 OCT 2018

Enc.

Subject:

FW: Supporting Transgender Young People-Guidance for Schools

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 12 September 2018 10:42

To: DUGUID, David <david.duguid.mp@parliament.uk>

Subject: Supporting Transgender Young People-Guidance for Schools

Dear Mr Duguid

As my parliamentary representative for the UK Government I wish to formally notify you that I am deeply troubled by the UK Government's endorsement of the recommendations of this document. I have carefully studied both UK and Scottish versions. Certain aspects of the contents of these documents are absolutely shocking and their influence and impact on our children, their parents and our schools would be utterly incomprehensible.

My concerns are:

It is blatantly obvious that the details contained within these guidelines, quite clearly and openly represent an attempt by radical special interest pressure groups to have their extreme 'gender ideology' incorporated within the mainstream education system as a means of instilling that ideology in our children, our young people and on the whole of society. And that the Scottish Government plans to endorse and implement these 'guidelines'.....into our Primary Schools.

That ideology is that the concept of male and female is a social construct and one that they wish to change. That ideology purports that human beings are in fact 'gender neutral' and that gender is in fact 'fluid' and that it is the 'right' of every person including small children, not only to 'choose' their gender - or their identity on the 'gender spectrum', (regardless of their assigned sex at birth) but to be encouraged to do so.

Furthermore, the Scottish Government is pushing this on the dishonest and wholly unfounded premise that it is aimed at dealing with 'transgender young people' being bullied in our schools. I have already written to MSP representatives asking them for statistics and other evidence to support this. I am happy to send you copies of my letters to them should you wish.

Additionally, it is very alarming that so few people locally have any knowledge of these plans.

What I have briefly described above is quite common knowledge. Such policies have already been introduced in schools in parts of the rest of the UK and daily news reports reveal the damage and confusion that result.

Should the various political parties of the Scottish Government agree to implement even the fundamentals of these 'Guidelines' they will in fact be opening the door for our very small children and our Nation's youth to nothing less than state sponsored radical 'gender' indoctrination.

I hereby earnestly urge you and your Party to urgently seek to propose an alternative and measured response to this issue. I fully understand that society is changing and that there are great pressures on our politicians, however, we simply cannot allow this to happen in our schools. The Conservative Party, for

whom I have voted all my life, used to be the bastion of individual responsibility and family values. In these ever changing and very challenging times, we must strive to defend those principles. And above all - Protect Our Children!

Finally, as I have already mentioned, there is alarmingly little awareness of this extremely worrying matter and its implications locally. I therefore respectfully urge you to consider the need for a public meeting so that local parents and grandparents are notified.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely

A small, horizontal black redaction mark covering a line of text, likely the sender's name.A large, rectangular black redaction mark covering several lines of text, likely contact information such as a phone number or email address.

Sent from my iPad

20170043479

From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 November 2017 09:31

To: Scottish Ministers

Subject: Transgender issues

Dear Mr Swinney

I recently heard that the Scottish Government is in favour of teachers exploring gender issues with children of primary age.

To start with there is compelling evidence to suggest that most of these children would, after puberty, actually come to feel secure and happy in the bodies they were born with, eradicating the need for serious medical intervention. It is irresponsible not to investigate this possibility - indeed, by not doing so we are in danger of failing children.

As has been pointed out in research, children need to develop by themselves without being confused by an agenda pushed forward by proponents from the LGBT community. So, please do not allow schools to follow their guidance, especially with regard to not even informing parents. Parents have the ultimate responsibility for their child's development, in conjunction with others, not the school.

Thanks.

[redacted]

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2017/0043479
December 2017

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail of 24 November 2017 to the Scottish Ministers about teachers exploring gender issues with primary school children. I have been asked to reply to you as I have policy responsibility for relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education in the Scottish curriculum.

The Scottish Government wants to ensure all young people, no matter their sexual orientation or identity, are respected and receive the support they need to make informed choices for themselves. That is why schools will promote children's health and wellbeing right throughout early years, primary and secondary education through refreshed, age-appropriate and inclusive strategies and resources. This will enable children to learn about tolerance, respect and equality to help address and prevent prejudice.

RSHP education is an integral part of the health and wellbeing area of the curriculum and it is for local authorities and schools to decide how it is delivered based on local needs and circumstances. The Scottish Government published guidance for teachers on RSHP education in 2014¹. This guidance encourages equality and mutual respect from an early age and supports teachers to deal with issues affecting transgender people in Scotland's schools. This guidance is also clear that RSHP education must

¹ <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/12/8526>

speak to all children and young people, and be inclusive of their identities and characteristics and the diverse family circumstances in which they grow up. We ask teachers to work closely with parents in the delivery of RSHP education, by discussing proposed lessons and resources with them in advance to ensure children and young people gain knowledge appropriate to their age and stage of education.

The guidance recently published on transgender issues highlights the importance of schools and teachers working with parents and does not ask schools to change young people's gender without their consent. It does, however, ask that children and young people seeking guidance on transgender issues are able to get the support they need without breaching their confidentiality. This guidance outlines the simple steps that can be taken to ensure no-one experiences discrimination or prejudice because of their gender identity.

I hope this letter reassures you the Scottish Government expects that teaching should be based on facts and should enable pupils to develop an understanding of the issues affecting them but that, ultimately, schools are responsible for the content of lessons.

Yours sincerely

20170043539

From: [redacted]

Sent: 27 November 2017 15:56:15

To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Subject: Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early Years

Dear Maree Todd,

RE: Advice on trans-gender children

First I want to thank you for your commitment to Scotland and your hard work to assist and benefit the nation.

Nevertheless, as a leader in the community I would like to express my concern at reports in the press that advice is being given to teachers in Scotland to allow 3-5 year-olds to choose their gender 'without the knowledge of their parents'. Furthermore, the indication is that teachers are advised that it may be useful to approach the local authority if the parent of a trans child is 'struggling to come to terms with their child's identity.' Is the implication here is that if the parent does not agree with the state, the child may be taken into social care?

Firstly, I think we are heading down a seriously misguided route to let young children make these choices for themselves. It is not 'PC' in these child-centred times to suggest that anyone but the child knows best what is right for them; this should always be the parent before the professional. The whole issue throws up many complications, perhaps the least being those often cited of changing facilities and school trips. The government and Education Department are rushing through major changes to societal norms that have been established over millennia. We need to have a much more balanced debate, that does not seek to silence faith groups or those consider 'reactionary', but listen to wisdom and experience. If we race

head-long down this road we will continue to politicise the issue and exaggerate a notion of fluidity of gender.

There appears to be a causal link between the vast increase in referrals of trans cases and the media/political hype surrounding the issue. As one who has had to counsel many people over the years who have suffered from issues arising during childhood, I raise strong concerns about these developments. Creating a climate of gender confusion will cause untold misery in the years to come. Apparently a young person's brain does not stop developing until they are 25yrs old, and identity is a slowly emerging awareness.

Of course, there are exceptional situations where through reasons of birth the gender of a child may need medical help, and should be treated with the greatest sensitivity and compassion. We will, however, end up causing far greater harm if we make it a suggestion to ALL young children that they might be born under the wrong gender, and encourage them to explore both. Except in the most extreme cases of harm, the best place for children is also with their parents. We should not let the state undermine the responsibility and right for parents to raise their children - rather we should be strengthening families and encouraging parents in their role. An expert, Dr Sharon James, has said: "There is a growing sense of unease at the lack of wisdom in allowing children and young people to "socially transition" or undergo medical treatment to treat dysphoria.

"Children and young people should be protected from medical interventions that are dangerous both physically and psychologically. To intervene medically is unnecessary and unwise.

"Underage youngsters are not mature enough to make such momentous choices and decisions. It is far wiser to allow puberty to take its natural course." Please ask the Scottish Government to change their approach and allow children to develop naturally, leaving such serious matters until they at least are 18yrs old or more.

Yours sincerely,

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2017/0043539
11 December 2017

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 November 2017 to the Scottish Ministers about advice on transgender children. I have been asked to reply to you as I have policy responsibility for relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education in the Scottish curriculum.

The Scottish Government wants to ensure all young people, no matter their sexual orientation or identity, are respected and receive the support they need to make informed choices for themselves. That is why schools will promote children's health and wellbeing right throughout early years, primary and secondary education through refreshed, age-appropriate and inclusive strategies and resources. This will enable

children to learn about tolerance, respect and equality to help address and prevent prejudice.

RSHP education is an integral part of the health and wellbeing area of the curriculum and it is for local authorities and schools to decide how it is delivered based on local needs and circumstances. The Scottish Government published guidance for teachers on RSHP education in 2014². This guidance encourages equality and mutual respect from an early age and supports teachers to deal with issues effecting transgender people in Scotland's schools. This guidance is also clear that RSHP education must speak to all children and young people, and be inclusive of their identities and characteristics and the diverse family circumstances in which they grow up. We ask teachers to work closely with parents in the delivery of RSHP education, by discussing proposed lessons and resources with them in advance to ensure children and young people gain knowledge appropriate to their age and stage of education.

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I hope this letter reassures you the Scottish Government expects that teaching should be based on facts and should enable pupils to develop an understanding of the issues affecting them but that, ultimately, schools are responsible for the content of lessons.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

20180001161

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

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Dugdale
K (Kezia), MSP

Sent: 09 January 2018 11:55

To: Scottish Ministers

Subject: FAO: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Dear John,

Please see below an e-mail from a constituent of mine expressing concerns about advice being provided in schools to transgender children.

I would be grateful if you were able to comment on the content of the e-mail and address the issues [redacted] is raising in order for me to respond.

² <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/12/8526>

Kind Regards,

Kezia

Kezia Dugdale MSP
MSP for Lothian Region (Labour & Co-op)
M1.07, Scottish Parliament, EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 3486894
www.keziadugdale.com
www.twitter.com/kezdugdale

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

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 November 2017 16:02
To: Findlay N (Neil), MSP <Neil.Findlay.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Letter from your constituent [redacted]

[redacted]

Monday 27 November 2017
Dear Neil Findlay,
RE: Advice on trans-gender children

First I want to thank you for your commitment to Scotland and your hard work to assist and benefit the nation.

Nevertheless, as a leader in the community I would like to express my concern at reports in the press that advice is being given to teachers in Scotland to allow 3-5year-olds to choose their gender 'without the knowledge of their parents'. Furthermore, the indication is that teachers are advised that it may be useful to approach the local authority if the parent of a trans child is 'struggling to come to terms with their child's identity.' Is the implication here is that if the parent does not agree with the state, the child may be taken into social care?

Firstly, I think we are heading down a seriously misguided route to let young children make these choices for themselves. It is not 'PC' in these child-centred times to suggest that anyone but the child knows best what is right for them; this should always be the parent before the professional.

The whole issue throws up many complications, perhaps the least being those often cited of changing facilities and school trips. The government and Education Department are rushing through major changes to societal norms that have been established over millennia. We need to have a much more balanced debate, that does not seek to silence faith groups or those consider 'reactionary', but listen to wisdom and experience. If we race head-long down this road we will continue to politicise the issue and exaggerate a notion of fluidity of gender.

There appears to be a causal link between the vast increase in referrals of trans cases and the media/political hype surrounding the issue.

As one who has had to counsel many people over the years who have suffered from issues arising during childhood, I raise strong concerns about these developments. Creating a climate of gender confusion will cause untold misery in the years to come. Apparently a young person's brain does not stop developing until they are 25yrs old, and identity is a slowly emerging awareness.

Of course, there are exceptional situations where through reasons of birth the gender of a child may need medical help, and should be treated with the greatest sensitivity and compassion. We will, however, end up causing far greater harm if we make it a suggestion to ALL young children that they might be born under the wrong gender, and encourage them to explore both.

Except in the most extreme cases of harm, the best place for children is also with their parents. We should not let the state undermine the responsibility and right for parents to raise their children -rather we should be strengthening families and encouraging parents in their role.

An expert, Dr Sharon James, has said: "There is a growing sense of unease at the lack of wisdom in allowing children and young people to socially transition or undergo medical treatment to treat dysphoria. Children and young people should be protected from medical interventions that are dangerous both physically and psychologically. To intervene medically is unnecessary and unwise.

"Underage youngsters are not mature enough to make such momentous choices and decisions. It is far wiser to allow puberty to take its natural course."

Please ask the Scottish Government to change their approach and allow children to develop naturally, leaving such serious matters until they at least are 18yrs old or more.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

20180001725

From: Campbell AE (Aileen), MSP [mailto:Aileen.Campbell.msp@parliament.scot]

Sent: 11 January 2018 17:35

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FW: Transgender lessons for 4-year-olds : Named Persons : Criminalising smacking.

Dear DFM, please see an email below from a constituent. He wishes to understand more about transgender education and the SG's approach to the proposed bill on physical punishment.

Grateful for your comments

Best wishes

Aileen

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 4:57 PM

To: Campbell AE (Aileen), MSP


<Aileen.Campbell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Aileen.Campbell.msp@parliament.scot>>

Subject: Transgender lessons for 4-year-olds : Named Persons : Criminalising smacking.

Dear Aileen

Both my wife and myself are very unhappy about the route on which you appear to be going regarding transgender information for 4-year-olds, Named persons, criminalising smacking etc. We feel that these things are totally inappropriate and are blatant interferences with the family unit. What has happened to the good Christian attitude as this seems to be sadly missing? We are being told we have to watch what we say, watch what we do by minority groups with agendas. We feel that we are part of the silent majority.

We have been SNP members for some considerable time. You may loose a large number of votes from the people who vote most - older people. Young parents are so busy working and bringing up their children they just don't notice what the SNP are trying to force through.



It appears nowadays everybody has to be politically correct. As members of the Free Church of Scotland we are also allowed to have our own beliefs and opinions, but it appears that these other views are being rammed down our throats and the Christian view seems to be getting persecuted.

We would be obliged if you would vote against this legislation in the Scottish Parliament.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet
Secretary for Education and Skills
John Swinney MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: dfmcse@gov.scot

Ms Aileen Campbell MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Your ref:
Our ref: 2018/0001725
February 2018

You have written to me on behalf of your constituents, [redacted]. [redacted] have raised concerns regarding transgender education and the proposed bill on physical punishment.

[Redacted] email refers to transgender information for 4 year olds, which may reflect some of the press coverage of a particular approach being taken within England and Wales. It may be helpful therefore if I set out the position on this issue in Scotland in some detail.

Education about transgender issues is set within a wide context in Scotland, both within the legal framework and the context of the Scottish curriculum.

The Scottish Government believes in a Scotland where everyone, regardless of background, has the right to live and raise their family in peace. Our work to tackle all forms of bigotry, prejudice and discrimination is built on this fundamental premise.

The Equality Act 2010 places duties on responsible bodies (local authorities, managers of independent and grant aided schools) to actively deal with inequality, this includes preventing discrimination, harassment or victimisation of pupils on the basis, or a perceived basis, of their religion or belief, race, sex (gender), disability, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity.

The Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for Curriculum for Excellence, set the context for learning and teaching on relationships, sexual health and parenthood. I attach a link to the outcomes for your constituent's information <https://education.gov.scot/Documents/health-and-wellbeing-ee.pdf>. These describe the type of learning which should be undertaken from the Early years through to Fourth Level. The experiences and outcomes are designed to reflect the development within learning and maturity of pupils across their learning journey, and therefore what a pupil would learn at aged 4 is quite different from that in S4.

In addition to the curricular experiences and outcomes relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RHSP) education is guided through statutory guidance for schools and education authorities. RSHP education focuses on equipping children and young people with the knowledge, skills and values to make informed and positive choices about forming relationships. It can assist with making safer decisions about their sexual and emotional health and wellbeing in a responsible and healthy manner, as an important part of preparation for adult life. Children and young people develop an understanding of how to maintain positive relationships with a variety of people and are aware of how thoughts, feelings, attitudes, values and beliefs can influence decisions about relationships and sexual health. They also develop an understanding of the complex role and responsibilities of being a parent or carer. This revised guidance also reflects the need for discussion of all types of relationships as part of RSHP education. I attach a link to the guidance for [redacted] information <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/12/8526/1>

We recognise the particular disadvantage experienced by trans people across many aspects of their life, and are supportive of all measures to increase inclusion in schools for pupils and staff alike. We are working with a range of organisations to ensure that schools have information and advice available to them to ensure that all pupils are supported within school.

In relation to the issue of the proposed Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill. The proposal for a Member's Bill was brought forward to the Scottish Parliament by John Finnie MSP. The Bill proposal was consulted upon and brought before Parliament to be voted upon in October 2017. As you may be aware from the media coverage at the time, the Member's Bill was voted for. As a result of this, Mr Finnie has won the right to introduce a Member's Bill. He has the right to introduce a Member's Bill to give effect to the proposal until 1 June 2020 (or, exceptionally, until 30 September 2020). I attach information on the process so far, for [redacted] information <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/104602.aspx>

It is expected that Mr Finnie will bring forward a Member's Bill on this issue, to which the public Bill's process will apply. Information on that process is attached at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/15707.aspx>. The Scottish Government has been clear that, although this is not a Scottish Government proposal, it is supportive of the legislative proposals to remove the existing defence for parents and outlaw all forms of physical punishment. It is believed that physical punishment can have negative effects on children which can last long after the physical pain has died away. We support positive parenting through, for example, funding for family support services."

I trust that the information I have provided is helpful to you and [redacted].

JOHN SWINNEY

20180025658

From: Ash Denham MSP [mailto:ash.denham.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 17 July 2018 15:09
To: Minister for Older People and Equalities
Subject: (Case Ref: AD2947)

Dear Minister,

I have been asked to draw your attention to the attached letter by Ash Denham MSP. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Good wishes,

[redacted]

Communications and Press for Ash Denham MSP

—
This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
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—
Minister for Older People and Equalities
St. Andrews House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Our Ref: AD2947 17 July 2018

Dear Christina

I am writing on behalf of a constituent, [redacted] who recently contacted me regarding new guidelines for schools concerning transgender pupils and changing rooms having read a recent report in The Herald.

[Redacted] is concerned by reports that none of the councils involved, nor the children's commissioner, nor Education Scotland have carried out an equality impact assessment to ensure the rights and wellbeing of other pupils are unaffected. [redacted] is particularly concerned about the impact this may have on girls at school.

[Redacted] has asked me to convey his disappointment in the Scottish Government's position that responsibility for carrying out equality impact assessment lies with local councils. He believes it to be too important an issue and urges the Scottish Government to reconsider this decision.

I write to you to draw your attention to this and to ask if the Scottish Government has any plans to reconsider this position.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Ash Denham MSP

Edinburgh Eastern Constituency
Powered by TCPDF (www.tcpdf.org)
SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4NT
Tel: 0131 659 4707 email: Ash.Denham.msp@parliament.scot
www.fb.com/AshDenhamMSP @ashtenRD

Minister for Older People and Equalities
Christina McKelvie MSP



Scottish Go
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

vernment

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Ash Denham
MSP for Edinburgh East
SPACE
11 Harewood Road
Edinburgh
EH16 4NT
By email:
ash.denham.msp@parliament.scot

Your ref: AD2947
Our ref: 2018/0025658
17 August 2018

Thank you for your letter of 17 July on behalf of your constituent, [redacted], about LGBT Youth Scotland's guidance for schools *Supporting Transgender Young People, 2018* and equality impact assessments (EQIAs).

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that all children and young people learn in an environment that is free from discrimination. We recognise the particular disadvantage experienced by transgender people, and are supportive of all measures to increase inclusion in schools. We welcome this publication, which is the result of collaboration between LGBT Youth Scotland and the Scottish Trans Alliance. The guidance outlines simple steps that can be taken to ensure no-one experiences discrimination or prejudice because of their gender identity.

All public authorities have legal duties towards the protected characteristic groups as set out in the Equality Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a legal duty (known as the 'General Equality Duty') on public authorities to: Eliminate discrimination; Advance equality of opportunity; and, Foster good community relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Furthermore, the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 oblige public authorities to assess the impact of each new policy against all of the protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010. EQIAs help to ensure that policies recognise the diversity of people and are shaped around diverse needs and experience. The monitoring and enforcement of the specific duties are matters for the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), rather than the Scottish Government. In this instance, an EQIA would not be appropriate as the guidance belongs to LGBT Youth Scotland and is not a 'new policy'.

Your constituent may also be interested to know that the EHRC published guidance for schools in 2015 www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/equalityact2010-technicalguidance-schoolsinscotland-2015_0.pdf. This guidance outlines the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 for schools in relation to the provision of education and access to benefits, facilities or services. It provides an authoritative, comprehensive and technical guide to the detail of the law and includes specific references to providing facilities in schools for transgender pupils.

I hope this information is helpful.

Kind regards

CHRISTINA MCKELVIE

20180030433

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 August 2018 19:49

To: Swinney J (John), MSP

<John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
>

Subject: Transgender Ideology

Dear John,

[redacted]

I and other members of staff have been alarmed at the speed at which current transgender ideology has been promoted within our school community. Unfortunately this highly questionable ideology has been allowed unfettered access in our school via LGBT+ and the LGBT schools charter. The lives of some of our most vulnerable young people and their families have already been affected. Two examples of emails I have received are below.

I have expressed concerns to the school's Senior Leadership Team. The Head Teacher asked me to speak with council leaders, the Equalities Engagement Officer and the Head of Education, while making no changes at present within the school. I am currently in the process of trying to meet with them.

Unfortunately, the Scottish Government appears to be fully supportive of the guidance in this document Supporting Transgender Young People<file:///C:/Users/Dell/Desktop/Classes%20back%20up/supporting-transgenderyoung-people.pdf>. Serious issues arise as a result of this for parents, teachers and all young people. These include the reinforcement of gender stereotypes rather than allowing our young people freedom from them; the fact that parents views are not considered a priority, in fact the rejection of parental view is almost cult-ish its approach; allowance for medical intervention to take place during puberty, despite the fact that research shows that the majority of young people suffering gender dysphoria desist having gone through puberty with counselling and despite the fact that the medication may lead to irreversible damage to a young person's body; the issues of consent and safety regarding women and girls; the acceptance of breast binding despite its extremely destructive outcome for girls and young women. I suggest LGBT's access to Scottish schools should be halted immediately until appropriate critical research is undertaken and risks assessments completed regarding current transgender ideology and the transgenering of our children and young people. I attach a link here to an academic book on this subject Transgender Children and Young People Born in Your Own Body<https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Transgender_Children_and_Young_People.html?id=OPIVDwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=kp_read_button&redirect_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false> by Dr Heather Brunskell Evans and Professor Michele Moore.

I am ever supportive of your hard work within the government and in your role as Minister for Education. There has rarely arisen such a serious issue as this that has the potential to use a generation of our young people in a sociological and medical experiment.

Thank you for your time on this.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Ur faidhle/Your ref :
Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2018/0030433
5 October 2018

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your e-mail of 26 August 2018 to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skill, John Swinney MSP, regarding transgender. Your e-mail has been passed to me for reply as I have policy responsibility for relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education in the Scottish curriculum.

The Scottish Government wants to ensure all children and young people, no matter their sexual orientation or identity, are respected and receive the support they need to make informed choices for themselves. That is why schools will promote children and young people's health and wellbeing right throughout early years, primary and secondary education through refreshed, age-appropriate and inclusive strategies and resources. This will enable children and young people to learn about tolerance, respect and equality to help address and prevent prejudice.

RSHP education is an integral part of the health and wellbeing area of the curriculum and it is for local authorities and schools to decide how it is delivered based on local needs and circumstances. The Scottish Government published guidance for teachers on RSHP education in 2014³. This guidance encourages equality and mutual respect from an early age and supports teachers to deal with issues affecting transgender people in Scotland's schools. This guidance is also clear that RSHP education must speak to all children and young people, and be inclusive of their identities and characteristics and the diverse family circumstances in which they grow up. We ask

³ <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/12/8526>

teachers to work closely with parents in the delivery of RSHP education, by discussing proposed lessons and resources with them in advance to ensure children and young people gain knowledge appropriate to their age and stage of education.

The guidance recently published on transgender issues highlights the importance of schools and teachers working with parents and does not ask schools to change young people's gender without their consent. It does, however, ask that children and young people seeking guidance on transgender issues are able to get the support they need without breaching their confidentiality. This guidance outlines the simple steps that can be taken to ensure no-one experiences discrimination or prejudice because of their gender identity.

I hope this letter reassures you the Scottish Government expects that teaching should be based on facts and should enable pupils to develop an understanding of the issues affecting them but that, ultimately, schools are responsible for the content of lessons.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

20180037615

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary
for Education and Skills
John Swinney MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: dfmcse@gov.scot

Mr David Duguid MP
House Of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: 2018/0037615
15 November 2018

Thank you for your letter of 1 October 2018 on behalf of your constituent, [redacted], forwarding their concerns about transgender young people guidance for schools.

The Scottish Government wants all children and young people in Scotland to build positive relationships as they grow older, which is why relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education is an integral part of the health and wellbeing area of the curriculum in Scotland. RSHP education should present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner within a framework of sound values and an awareness of the law. Schools will equip young people with information on a wide range of issues, depending on their age and stage of learning. Children and young people will be encouraged to discuss these subjects with their peers and parents, to help them gain the knowledge and skills to become confident in making healthy lifestyle decisions for themselves.

The Scottish Government published guidance for teachers on RSHP education in 2014. This guidance encourages equality and mutual respect from an early age and supports teachers to deal with issues effecting, for example, transgender people in Scotland's schools. This guidance is also clear that RSHP education must speak to all children and young people, and be inclusive of their identities and characteristics and the diverse family circumstances in which they grow up. We ask teachers to work closely with parents in the delivery of RSHP education, by discussing proposed lessons and resources with them in advance to ensure children and young people gain knowledge appropriate to their age and stage of education.

In respect of the guidance your constituent refers to, the Scottish Government is supportive of the guidance produced by LGBT Youth Scotland, in conjunction with the Scottish Trans Alliance, on supporting transgender young people. There was no decision taken to formally endorse the guidance as there is not a prescriptive approach to the curriculum in Scotland. It is up to individual schools and local authorities how they deliver relevant and engaging learning, and who they work with to do so.

I hope this letter reassures your constituent the Scottish Government expects that teaching should be based on facts and should enable pupils to develop an understanding of the issues affecting them but that, ultimately, schools are responsible for the content of lessons.

JOHN SWINNEY

20180038943

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, November 4, 2018 10:21:02 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Swinney J (John), MSP
Subject: Re: Reply from the Scottish Government.

Dear [redacted],

You have not addressed my concerns regarding the current transgender ideology and its affect on Scottish school children, particularly teenage girls. I have no issues with the RSHP education document.

In your reply you state that 'the Scottish Government expects that teaching should be based on facts'. There is no doubt that children and young people suffering gender dysphoria should be offered support. However, the fact is that serious concerns have been expressed in the professional community concerning the 'affirmation' approach, in which a child's identity is determined and affirmed solely on the basis of the child's self-diagnosis.

It is also a fact that clinicians and researchers have cautioned against applying medical interventions to young people which are difficult to reverse, including puberty blockers and hormonal treatments, until after a child's psycho-sexual development is complete. The blithe normalisation of childhood 'transition' puts children at risk of invasive and untested medical procedures which will keep them medical patients for life.

These are some of the points in the transgender document Supporting Transgender Young People Guidance for Schools in Scotland that cause concern:

- * Children 'should be supported to explore and express their gender identity regardless of their age' and 'it is important not to deny their identity, or overly question their understanding of their gender identity'
 - * Teachers are advised not to 'disclose information to parents or carers without the young person's permission'
 - * Transgender pupils should be allowed to choose which toilets / changing rooms they use. Children who feel uncomfortable about sharing facilities with someone of the opposite sex can wait until after the transgender child has finished or use alternative facilities such as an accessible toilet. Parents with concerns about their child sharing toilets and / or changing rooms with a pupil of the opposite sex should be reminded of the school's ethos of inclusion, equality and respect
 - * Transgender pupils should be able to compete in the sports category they feel most comfortable with, male or female
 - * Parents should not be informed if their child is sharing rooms with pupils of the opposite sex on school trips
 - * If a parent is 'struggling to come to terms with their child's identity' teachers are advised that it 'may be useful to approach the local authority'
- I would also note the following concerns:
- * Parents have not been included in discussions regarding the transgender guidance, some have found out to their alarm through newspaper articles
 - * The consent of young people is compromised since they are unable to question others entering their private spaces
 - * Safety issues arise for girls in their private spaces
 - * Safety issues arise for girls in contact sports
 - * Gender stereo-typing is reinforced, not reduced
 - * Research shows that the increase of rapid-onset gender dysphoria is now a major concern
 - * Young people of faith have been labelled transphobic for questioning the trans ideology

- * Young people who wish to question the ideology are labelled transphobic
- * Young people who feel uncomfortable with others of the opposite sex in their changing areas have been labelled transphobic

A fully informed critical evaluation should be undertaken regarding the risks and potential outcomes for all children and young people of adopting the current transgender ideology before any policy is adopted, locally or nationally. Where policies have already been adopted without appropriate evaluation, they should be reviewed immediately.

A freedom of information request has been submitted in order to clarify the Scottish Government's position on the guidance document.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh
Learning Directorate
Aonad Ro-Innleachd agus Coileanaidh
Strategy and Performance Division



[redacted]

[redacted]

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2018/0038943
28 November 2018

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email of 4 November to my colleague [redacted] about LGBT Youth Scotland's Supporting Transgender Young People in Schools guidance.

I note the points you raise in your email and that your freedom of information request on this subject (Fol/18/03101) was subsequently answered by my colleague on 13 November 2018. I would therefore refer you to this answer in response to your 4 November email.

Yours sincerely,
[redacted]

2018/0027731

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary
for Education and Skills
John Swinney MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: dfmcse@gov.scot

Mr John Lamont MP
25 High Street,
Hawick
TD9 9BU

Your ref: FRAS2377/DGF//3/8/18
Our ref: 2018/0027731
6 September 2018

Thank you for your letter e-mailed on 7 August 2018 on behalf of your constituent, [redacted], which raised her concerns in relation to the teaching primary one children about gender.

I believe that [redacted] correspondence to you may be as a result of recent media coverage, and it may be helpful if I set out the factual position below.

The Scottish Government wants all children and young people in Scotland to build positive relationships as they grow older, which is why relationships sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education is an integral part of the health and wellbeing area of the curriculum in Scotland. RSHP education should present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner within a framework of sound values and an awareness of the law. Schools will equip young people with information on a wide range of issues, depending on their age and stage of learning. Children and young people will be encouraged to discuss these subjects with their peers and parents, to help them gain the knowledge and skills to become confident in making healthy lifestyle decisions for themselves.

Recent media coverage has referred to national guidelines. However, this is not the case. They are draft documents, which form part of ongoing work being led by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, involving partners from health boards and local

authorities, to deliver a new web-based RSHP teaching resource. This new resource is being developed in line with Curriculum for Excellence, drawing on best practice currently available from across Scotland and providing content that fully meets children and young people's rights, experiences and learning needs. This will be an interactive web-based learning and teaching resource covering the full 3-18 age range within Curriculum for Excellence. The curriculum provides significant flexibility, within broad national guidelines, for teachers to develop lessons which best meet the needs of individual learners. Ultimately, it is for schools to decide how they deliver RSHP education, based on the needs of the children or young people in their classroom, using whatever resources they deem suitable.

The guidance on transgender education which [redacted] referred to, is *Supporting Transgender Young People*. This guidance was developed by LGBT Youth Scotland in conjunction with the Scottish Trans Alliance and aims to help schools to support young people who are exploring their identity. The guidance explores the issues which schools and education authorities may have to consider when a young person is considering changing their identity. The guidance recognises this is a decision that the young person themselves may make, that it may not be easy and may impact negatively on their learning. The guidance document therefore explores the practical issues which schools may need to respond to. The guidance document mistakenly indicated that the Scottish Government had endorsed the guidance. The Scottish Government does not endorse materials for schools and therefore this error was rectified. The guidance was, however, funded by the Scottish Government. As indicated above it is for schools and education authorities to determine which resources within their local authority area.

I trust that this information is helpful to you and [redacted].

JOHN SWINNEY