

From: [redacted – exemption applies]  
Sent: 26 September 2018 10:28:15  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Subject: FW: P1 Testing

AO – [redacted – exemption applies] For  
maccs please.

[redacted – exemption applies] |Deputy Private Secretary to John Swinney MSP | Deputy  
First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | Scottish  
Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted – exemption applies]

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From: [redacted – exemption applies]  
Sent: 20 September 2018 09:21  
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
<DFMCSE@gov.scot<<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>>> Subject: FW:  
P1 Testing

From: [redacted – exemption applies]  
Sent: 19 September 2018 17:47  
To: Swinney J (John), MSP  
<[John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot)<<mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>>>  
Subject: P1 Testing

Dear Mr Swinney,

I have a grandson who was in Primary One last school year. The family has now moved to  
Norway so he is now in a different system. When the furore about P1 testing first blew up,  
I asked my daughter if my grandson, [redacted – exemption applies], had been tested and  
she replied that she presumed he had as she had been informed that it would happen but  
that nothing had been mentioned since so she was not sure. Last night my daughter sent me  
the following message:

I was reading an article on the bbc about the p1 testing debate. I showed the pictures to  
[redacted – exemption applies] and asked if he remembered doing this test and he said yes

that he'd done it twice, at the beginning of the year and then at the end. He thought it was really fun!

Said he did it on the iPad with his teacher, she told him he did really well. I knew he'd be tested in the year and was told it was only to identify learning gaps or difficulties for the teacher. He never mentioned it at the time so I can only think his recollection of it being fun is correct. I'm not sure if this is just a product of a good school environment but I don't see why if that's all it is people are getting so upset, surely tailoring learning to the child is a good thing? They all learn in different ways and at different rates. [redacted – exemption applies] asked if he could do it again, can't have been that traumatic!

Sent from my iPhone

As you can see, my daughter is in favour of the test and my grandson has suffered no stress because of it. I know that the testing has been debated today but I have been unable to watch as I am in work. However, I want you to know that like my daughter, I believe that, far from damaging children, P1 testing is a good way to inform child appropriate teaching. I also firmly believe that if any child is left shaking, tearful and traumatised, that is most probably that fault of an adult, parent or teacher, as a five year-old should have no context of testing being something to fear.

I believe any vote today will not have been binding so I trust, having got the knee-jerk opposition out of their systems, other party MSPs will now start looking at the positives in the education system.

Best wishes,

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]

[redacted – exemption applies]

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From: [redacted – exemption applies]  
Sent: 13 September 2018 12:12:49  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Subject: FW: P1 tests - plea to scrap

AO [redacted – exemption applies]

For MACCS please

[redacted – exemption applies] Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to John Swinney

MSP | Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary Education and Skills | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted – exemption applies]

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From: [redacted – exemption applies]  
Sent: 10 September 2018 14:54  
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot<<mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot>>>  
Subject: FW: P1 tests - plea to scrap

From: [redacted – exemption applies]  
Sent: 10 September 2018 14:46  
To: Swinney J (John), MSP <[John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot)<<mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>>>  
Cc: [jo.swinson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jo.swinson.mp@parliament.uk)<<mailto:jo.swinson.mp@parliament.uk>>  
Subject: P1 tests - plea to scrap

Dear Mr Swinney,

I write as a mother of a P1 pupil in our local comprehensive school with a plea to scrap the relatively new practice of testing children at this stage in their schooling.

All evidence points to the results having no validity and serves only to put unnecessary and damaging pressure on our youngest at a vulnerable and impressionable part of their lives.

I am hugely impressed with the 'Play to Learn' policy that pervades P1 and these tests seem only to fly in the face of that very philosophy.  
I have yet to meet one parent who feels testing P1 pupils is a good idea.

Please reconsider your stance and allow our children to learn through play at this early stage of their schooling.

With thanks,

[redacted – exemption applies]

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[redacted – exemption applies]

12th October 2018

Mr John Swinney MSP  
Deputy first Minister and Cabinet Sec for Education and Skills,  
Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh.

EH99 ISP

23 OCT 2018

Dear Mr Swinney,

A suggested Policy for the Assessment of Children.

Much of the political boxing in relation to the assessment or testing of children shows up as far as the oppositions are concerned the failure and lack of policy based themselves.

As far as the Scottish Conservatives are concerned like many others i consider their actions to be wanton political posturing but that's never stopped them in the past.

As a parent who has a son who had in his early years special educational needs I understand and fully appreciate the need and requirement for proper assessment in order to ensure his development.

This is where I would suggest that we take a leaf out of the "English System" .to take a step forward.

Primary P1 /P2 Assessments. (a suggestion )

The Scottish Government, has listened to the collective voice of Parliament and has decided to make all assessments for P1 and P2 non-statutory. All schools though will have a duty and responsibility to provide for parents and the school inspection systems, developmental needs and records, in the benchmarks as required by the curriculum of excellence.

P3 and above assessments. ( a suggestion )

Schools will be required to evidence for parents and the inspection systems, the clear attainment of children, for their future developmental needs. These records and developmental assessments being available to parents.

In this manner we could move out of the loop which opens UP the SNP Government, to the accusation of centralisation and moves the responsibility back to the schools to evidence what they are doing giving teachers the professional responsibility they crave.

As far as I'm concerned this WOULD allow the Scottish Government, to say that it has listened to the Scottish Parliament, and has put into place a system that allows the best people that being teachers to do the job and assess the developmental needs of children in the best and most appropriate way locally. Teachers, Schools and Education Departments and local authorities would then as now, be responsible.

Yours aye,

[redacted – exemption applies]

