



T: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

Mr Bill Welsh

By email: [REDACTED]

Your ref:
Our ref: 2019/0008286
02 April 2019

Mr Welsh

Thank you for your email dated 14th March 2019 addressed to Jeane Freeman MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport regarding discussing your research on autism. As you can imagine, the Minister receives a large number of correspondence and is unable to personally respond to each letter, therefore she has asked me to respond on her behalf as I have policy responsibility for Autism and Learning Disabilities.

I refer to our previous correspondence dated 21st September 2019 under reference 2018/0032112 and correspondence dated 29th October 2018 under reference 2018/0037511.

I also note your petition dated January 2016 under reference PE01597 and the Scottish Government's response.

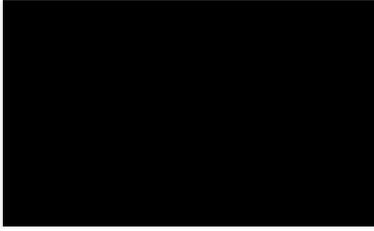
You have mentioned an increase in the number of children with autism. In 2017 there were 688,959 pupils in Scotland's Local Authority primary, secondary and special schools and grant-aided schools. Of those, 183,257 were identified as having an additional support need, around 26.6 % of all pupils. This represents a 1.7% increase on last year's figure. Of those pupils, 14,973 are recorded as receiving additional support as a result of autism.

We are clear that all children and young people should get the support they need to reach their full potential. Education authorities are responsible for identifying and meeting the additional support needs of their pupils. This includes the employment and provision of appropriate resources, including teaching and support staff, to meet children's needs.



In terms of your proposal for research, the Scottish Government's position on the matter hasn't changes and unfortunately there is nothing further I can add to the advice you have already had.

I thank you again for your additional comments.



Policy Officer

From:
Sent: 14 March 2019 11:07:29
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Minister for Mental Health
Subject: FW: Autism (ASD)

Attachments: ASD_Data_1copy.pdf

AO ? [REDACTED]

PEU

Please add to MACCS as a diary case.

Thanks,

From: Bill Welsh
Sent: 13 March 2019 14:10
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
Subject: Autism (ASD)

Hello,
I would like a short meeting with Jeane Freeman and to discuss the alarming and continuing rise in autism (ASD), Speech & Language Disorder and Social Emotional & Behavioural difficulties as revealed by the recently published Scottish educational statistics.

I have attached a graph I created some years ago regarding Autism for interest.

I wish to discuss the underlying 'cause' and a proposal for research.

I am now retired.

Thank you,

Bill

Bill Welsh
Honorary President
Autism Treatment Trust
Scotland.

Mob:
Home:

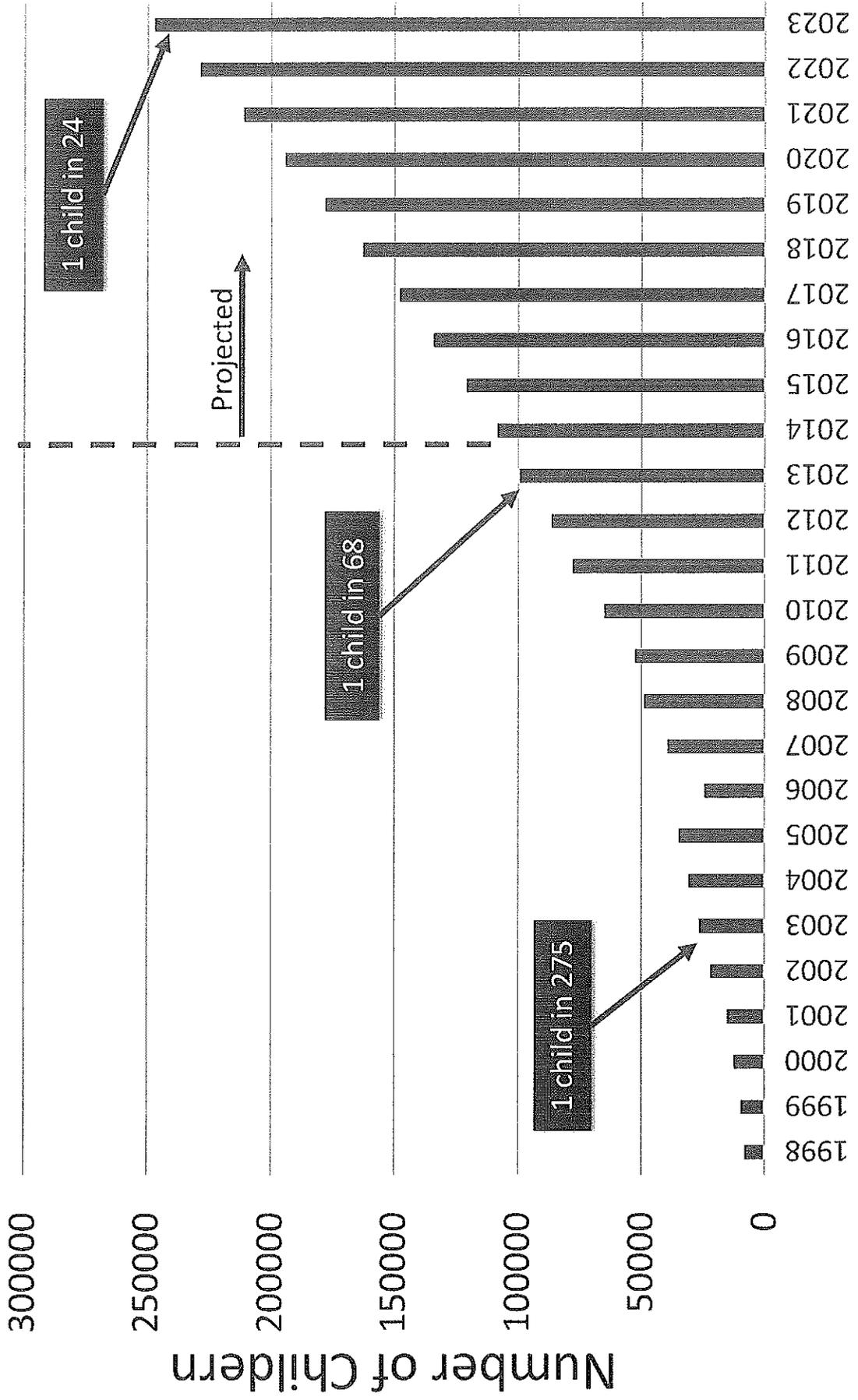
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Year **Number of Children**

1998	8200
1999	9590
2000	12450
2001	15150
2002	22040
2003	26630
2004	30900
2005	34840
2006	24430
2007	39190
2008	49000
2009	52540
2010	65060
2011	78010
2012	86500
2013	99460
2014	108450
2015	120890
2016	134080
2017	148020
2018	162710
2019	178140
2020	194380
2021	211260
2022	228930
2023	247370

<-----Change highlighted cell for start year of data

Children with ASD in UK Schools





T: 131-244
E:

Mr Bill Welsh

Our ref: 2018/0037511
23 November 2018

Dear Mr Welsh

Thank you for your email dated 29 October 2018 seeking a meeting with Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister and your email of 26 October seeking a meeting with Mr John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to discuss mental health issues in children. I have been asked to respond as I have policy responsibility for autism.

Unfortunately, due to heavily committed diaries both the First Minister and Deputy First Minister are unable to meet with you at this time. Both have asked me to pass on their apologies and best wishes for the future.


Autism Policy

From:
Sent: 29 October 2018 09:12:02
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Autism

MACCS case please for OR

Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel

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From: Bill Welsh
Sent: 27 October 2018 11:45
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Autism

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

From: Bill Welsh
To: nicola.sturgeon.msp
<nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>>
>>
Sent: Fri, 26 Oct 2018 13:34
Subject: Autism

Hello,

I wish to have a meeting with Nicola Sturgeon MSP to discuss mental health issues in children. I am retired but was until recently the founder and president of a charity in Edinburgh.

I live in Glasgow so it may be more convenient to meet there, but I am willing to travel through to Edinburgh if that suits best.

I have been to the Scottish Parliament a number of times on the subject of autism (since the Parliament opened).

The government's ambitions for education targets will never be met while we have the disruption and costs of the autism epidemic we are currently experiencing. Please let me explain what is happening, why, and how to resolve it.

Best regards,

Bill Welsh
Honorary President
Autism Treatment Trust

Mob:

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From: '
Sent: 30 October 2018 17:06:39
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: Autism

MACCs diary case

DFM wishes to decline

Kind Regards,

' Assistant Private Secretary (Diary) to John Swinney MSP | Deputy
First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills | Scottish
Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T:
D

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From: 'st>
Sent: 26 October 2018 13:52
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Subject: FW: Autism

From: Bill Welsh
Sent: 26 October 2018 13:42
To: Swinney J (John), MSP
<John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>>>
Subject: Autism

Hello,
I wish to have a meeting with John Swinney MSP to discuss mental health issues in children. I am retired but was until recently the founder and president of a charity in Edinburgh.

I live in Glasgow so it may be more convenient to meet there, but I am willing to travel through to Edinburgh if that suits best.
I have been to the Scottish Parliament a number of times on the subject of autism (since the Parliament opened).
The government's ambitions for education targets will never be met while we have the disruption and costs of the autism epidemic we are currently experiencing. Please let me explain what is happening, why, and how to resolve it.
Best regards,

Bill Welsh
Honorary President
Autism Treatment Trust

Mob:

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Minister for Mental Health
Clare Haughey MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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

Mr Bill Welsh

Our ref: 2018/0032112
24th October 2018

Dear Mr Welsh

Thank you for your email dated 13th September 2018 seeking a meeting with Clare Haughey MSP, Minister for Mental Health, to discuss children with mental health issues.

Unfortunately, due to a heavily committed diary Ms Haughey is unable to meet with you at this time. The Minister has asked me to pass on her apologies and best wishes for the future.

PP.
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Private Secretary

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



From:
Sent: 13 September 2018 16:17:59
To: Public Engagement Unit, Minister for Mental Health
Subject: FW: Autism

AO [REDACTED]

Hello

For response please.

Many thanks,

Assistant Private Secretary to Clare Haughey MSP
Minister for Mental Health
T E:

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From:

Sent: 13 September 2018 16:17
To: Minister for Mental Health

Subject: FW: Autism

Please see below the email to Clare in her ministerial role.

Thanks,

From:
Sent: 13 September 2018 15:58
To: Haughey C (Clare), MSP
<Clare.Haughey.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Clare.Haughey.msp@parliament.scot>
>
Subject: Autism

Hello,
I would like to have a meeting with Clare Haughey MSP to discuss mental health issues in children. I am retired but was until recently founder and president of an autism charity in Edinburgh.

I live in [redacted] Glasgow so it may be more convenient to meet in [redacted]?, but I am willing to travel through to Edinburgh if that suits best. I have been to the Scottish Parliament a number of times on the subject of autism and I gather that Clare now has some responsibilities on mental health issues. I look forward to hearing from you.
Bill

Bill Welsh
Honorary President
Autism Treatment Trust

Mob:

*

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Subject: FW: Minute from meeting 4th June

From:
Sent: 08 July 2014 14:59
To:
Subject: Minute from meeting 4th June

Dear Mr Welsh,

Further to our meeting 4 June, please find attached a meeting note as requested.

Kind regards,



Minute - meeting
with Mr Welsh...

Policy Advisor
Learning Disability and Autism Team
Care, Support and Rights Division
Area 2ER
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH13DG
Tel:

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Ministear airson Slàinte Poblach
Minister for Public Health
Micheal Matheson BPA
Michael Matheson MSP

F/T: 0845 774 1741
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Mr Kenneth Macintosh MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



Ur faidhle/Your ref: MD/WELS01002/01120845
Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0000431
25 March 2014

Dear Kenneth,

Thank you for your email of 13 February 2014 to Alasdair Allan, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages, inviting him to meet with Bill Welsh, to discuss developments with MMR safety and autism with regards to his own scientific research. I have been passed your invitation as autism falls under my Ministerial portfolio.

Unfortunately, I am unable to accept your invitation. However, Scottish Government officials would be happy to meet with your constituent to discuss his research. Please contact [redacted] Care, Support and Rights Division, at [redacted] k to make the necessary arrangements.

Best Wishes,

Michael Matheson

From:
Sent: 09 January 2014 13:03:45
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Cc: Minister for Public Health
Subject: FW: Autism

Can this be fast tracked please

Correct ref 2013/0007550

Thanks,

From: Bill Welsh [mailto:
Sent: 06 January 2014 14:08
To: Minister for Public Health
Subject: Autism

Dear Minister,

My recent contact with your office refers.

With reference to our correspondence on the subject of MMR safety and autism (ref 2013/00075550) I respectfully request a short private meeting with you in order that I can bring you up to date with developments, in particular with regard to my own scientific research on this issue.

I believe that we (Scotland) are now in a position to make an incredible contribution to the future of thousands of children and adults with an autism diagnosis.

I hope you can facilitate this request in the very near future.

Yours faithfully,

Bill Welsh.

Bill Welsh
Honorary President
Autism Treatment Trust.

Contacts: Mob H:

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Subject:

FW: ATT Closure

From: Autism Treatment Trust [<mailto:admin=autismtreatment.org.uk@mail186.wdc02.mcdlv.net>] **On Behalf Of**
Autism Treatment Trust

Sent: 16 August 2013 14:52

To:

Subject: ATT Closure

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ATT

Closure 31.08.13

Letter to ATT families

From Hamish Mair, Chairman of ATT



Dear Parents

Eleven years ago, a group of parents and relatives of children with autism, disappointed by the lack of adequate support and help for their children, came together to start a charity called Action Against Autism, later renamed Autism Treatment Trust (ATT), to serve as a voice and bring attention to healthcare professionals of the need for help and support in bringing up a child diagnosed with autism.

In 2006, a clinic was set up in Edinburgh to provide a diagnostic service, and access to biomedical, nutritional, and behavioural interventions to tackle the various medical and behavioural issues observed in children with autism. It has always been believed at ATT, that the earlier an intervention is started the better the chance of alleviating some, if not most of the problems seen in these children.

Over the past seven years, with the help of a dedicated team of scientists, medical doctors, behaviourists, and a large number of volunteers, ably supported by many who have

served on its board of trustees, ATT has provided access to diagnostic services, and dietary, nutritional and behavioural advice and support to over 500 families in the UK and from overseas.

ATT has organised a number of public events, including workshops, training of professionals in the use of diagnostic tools (ADOS and ADI-R), and a number of international conferences, the last of which was the highly successful international conference held in Edinburgh on the 12th and 13th of June 2013. We have also sought to bring the realities of the condition and the possible courses of intervention to the attention of healthcare professionals and public policy makers with mixed results.

In all the years that ATT has been in existence, it has received no financial support from central or local government, instead relying on income from small grants and donations from generous benefactors. There have been several occasions in the past when ATT has come close to running out of money,

only to be kept afloat with support from its senior trustees and other generous backers.

However, it has become increasingly difficult to continue to run the charity on this basis. With the charity running a considerable deficit in its finances, it is with much regret that the trustees have made the difficult decision to close the charity. This decision was not taken lightly and came after various avenues were explored in an effort to keep the charity going. Autism Treatment Trust will close its clinic at the end of August and thereafter the charity will wind up completely over the following weeks.

The pain of taking this decision has been lightened by the knowledge that a number of other charities now appreciate that early biomedical and nutritional interventions can positively change the course of autism and provide some of the services provided by ATT. Our approach to Autism, that it is not wholly or mainly genetic in origin and as such can be treated, has moved some distance from the periphery of scientific thought and although it is not yet accepted by the mainstream there is far greater awareness of this view and evidence that demands it to be

taken seriously. Whilst the Clinic is closing we will persevere through different avenues to get this message across where it matters.

One of the practical issues arising from the decision to close relates to the information that the charity holds on you or your child. Under data protection regulations, reports and results generated by ATT have been kept securely in an electronic format. Hard copies personal data has been destroyed securely by authorised companies. If you would like soft copies of your ATT-generated data, please contact us on 0131 558 7444.

Dr Lorene Amet, Principal Scientist at ATT, has started a new enterprise Autism Treatment Plus, which will continue to provide services to children with autism. She can be contacted by e-mail:

L.Amet@autismtreatment.org.uk

& through **AT+ web site**.

The charity Treating Autism (<http://treatingautism.co.uk>) has similar aims to ATT and can be contacted for advice and guidance

if required. Through these and other practitioners it should be possible to access the support required and so advance the core elements of our mission.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and confidence in the charity's services over the years. ATT would not have achieved what it has without you.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to wish you and your families the very best for the future.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Hamish Mair

Autism Treatment Plus

Contacts:

Autism Treatment Plus

Tel: 0131 558 7444 & 0131 466 0670

Contact outside clinic opening hours: 075 90 69 87 80

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