

**Redactions:**

**Section 38(1)(b)** – personal information

**Ref 1**

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

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 04 November 2021 08:51

To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: School celidh

CAUTION: This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear, nicola

I find it really unfair that concerts,nightclubs ect are allowed to happen yet my school karaoke and celidh for our last day at school cannot happen, therefore I hope this can be changed before December

Sent from [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 2**

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

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 04 November 2021 10:39

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: school celiah

Hello,

I think it's a joke that we can't have a celiah or karaoke on the last day of school but we can go to nightclubs and concerts with people! a think you should consider changing this and let us have it

Sent from [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 3**

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

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 04 November 2021 15:52

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: school celidh

dear first minister,

it is of great sorrow that i have heard our annual school celidh and karaoke is being cancelled due to COVID-19 regulations. i would like to therefore propose that concerts, festivals, holidays etc. with higher risk are also no longer carried on. i hope this reaches an authority so the issue may be dealt with appropriately

kind regards

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 4**

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

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 05 November 2021 12:39

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: School Nativity Covid measures - please consider

> Good Afternoon First Minister,

>

> I am getting in touch with you in regards to school nativity plays in the country and would like to get your take on it please.

>

> I know you have a really important and very big job so this may seem like a small thing but to us parents it is really important.

>

> Our child's school ([redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]) is running the school nativity online once more with no parents allowed and I understand this is in line with Scottish Government guidance.

> I was able to attend the COP26 GreenZone yesterday with tens of thousands of people but I can't see my daughter with a couple of hundred parents/guardians. It just doesn't make sense.

> PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE consider changing these restrictions this year. We are very obliging and happy to do as we are instructed but it doesn't sit comfortably when we are missing once in a lifetime milestones.

> In person events are up and running successfully and providing there is use of the Covid passport and everyone provides a negative LFT test which I am sure everyone would do, I am sure the school could easily welcome parents to experience this once in their child's lifetime opportunity safely.

>

> It sometimes feels like "because of Covid" is now a reason used frequently across sectors for things not to happen and I was really hoping that education would be different.

>

> Our P1s had an online nativity last year and that was totally understandable. They are now P2s about to do their last nativity and we won't get to experience watching it and being their to encourage and take it all in.

> That just makes us really sad.

>

> Many thanks in advance for your consideration

>

> [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

#### **Ref 5**

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Sent:** 08 November 2021 16:09

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Subject:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Good afternoon, I am emailing out of desperation!

We have recently received an email from [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]School stating that they are planning to record and share online the primary one nativity play.

Now I understand that there are still a disproportionate number of covid restrictions placed on schools, in comparison to other places. However there are no restrictions stopping an outdoor production with a socially distanced audience outside.

I understand the weather can be well, scottish. However the children are outside in all weather's and us parents would simply have to suck it up, something we are all prepared to do to see our children performing. The school however are not even entertaining this suggestion.

Other schools are managing but [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]is a blanket 'covid restrictions are in place so it's all online'

I have tried pleading to there better nature highlighting also the mental health impact this is having on parents and therefore children, but anything said is simply falling on deaf ears.

I know you'll have lots to deal with but I'm unsure who else to turn to.

Kind regards

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

A very deflated primary one parent

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 6**

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Sent:** 09 November 2021 17:29

**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** School Pantomimes - Cancelled

Dear Nicola,

We have just received word from [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] tonight to say that all [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] Pantomimes, cinema trips and nativities have been cancelled - again! Can you please tell me why adults can get their lives back to normal - holidays, dancing, meeting up but children in an education setting, where they are supposed to be learning through various methods, are being penalised, again?

Children have missed out on so much over these past two years and now with the majority of things getting back to normal for adults, still no pantomimes or trips for children. It seems to me children are being penalised through no fault of their own. We are lucky enough to be taking our children to a pantomime, but what about the children where a pantomime is their only Christmas experience, kids who have never been to a pantomime before and going with the school is their only opportunity. This is the future generation and quite frankly they are being treated appallingly. Its adults who are breaking rules, not the kids yet adults can more or less do what they like - while the children get everything cancelled.

I wouldn't normally write to you, but I am so fed up with the children having things cancelled and being treated differently with no end in sight. If this is us in Level 0, when do things get back to normal, when is the end date? I totally understand you don't know when Covid will go away, but I think we both agree not any time soon - but this cannot continue indefinitely, it just can't. Children have to get their lives back, this cannot become the norm for them, they have to be allowed to be children and experience things children should be experiencing.

I am pleading with you, please let kids get back to normal - let them have their pantomimes, let them have their school trips - most of them have had Covid anyway and the majority of adults are vaccinated. If parents are willing and feel safe letting their children go to a pantomime or a school trip, let them go.

Kind regards,

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 7****From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]**Sent:** 09 November 2021 19:27**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>**Subject:** Inter generational Unfairness

As a parent of a teenager, I have seen first hand the impact Covid 19 has had on our young adults. I have seen the fear, the worry and the loneliness.....and I now see deflation....and confusion....and anger.

As the nightclubs have reopened, football and rugby stadiums are full of supporters again and COP26 has attracted thousands of people to Glasgow, I do not understand or know how to justify to my child, your current restrictions on preventing our children celebrate Christmas at school. My daughter is 16, and usually her year at school enjoy a Christmas party, an event which the teenagers look forward to with excitement and happiness.....but are now being warned that due to Scottish Government restrictions this may not happen and is in fact unlikely to happen.

The inter generational unfairness is obvious - how much more can our teenagers take? And how can we justify your decisions to those young people, in light of other restrictions in hospitality being lifted? It's unfair, unkind and totally unjust.

I ask you to let our children celebrate Christmas and allow them to enjoy Nativity Plays, parties and social events at school. Why and how can we have one rule for them, yet another for nightclub goers and football fans?

I look forward to hearing from you, and I beseech you to let our children and young adults have Christmas back.

Yours sincerely

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 8****From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]**Sent:** 12 November 2021 12:33**To:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>**Subject:** FW: Out of school activities

Please see below

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]**Sent:** 12 November 2021 12:30**To:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]**Cc:** ben.macpherson.msp@parliament.scot; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]**Subject:** Out of school activities

Dear Cllr McVey,

Please see the email below from [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information].

Whilst I understand the Covid Guidance, this appears to be somewhat confused. Some young people are going to see this and still then attend school and the guidance disproportionately affects poorer young people.

You have been able to travel to Glasgow to represent the Council in terms of COP-26 yet the guidance and cancellation of this trip directly impacts on the well-being of young people. We seem to be in a culture where adults are returning to all things normal but young people are being discriminated against and having their wider education damaged by policies that only seem to apply to young people and schools. Adults are now able to part-take in lots of social activities but young people are restricted, this applies to after-school clubs too. It is clear that young people have been badly affected by COVID with very clear losses in confidence, lack of learning opportunities and mixed messages about exams.

As Leader of the Council you have made a stand about Climate Change, however young people within the Council are being disproportionately affected and damaged by a lack of out of school activities and there appears to be a lack of care. COP26 has brought people from around the world to Glasgow, additional planes and transportation being required, with some form of vague strap-line about the future. Could I also remind you that our young people need opportunities to grow so they can actively take their place in society. It appears again that schools are trying to do the right thing but are having their hands tied.

I have copied in my daughter who was due to go and I believe deserves an apology from Scottish Government and Council for policies that clearly discriminate against young people. I also believe the school should also be commended for seeking out these opportunities for young people.

Regards

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Sent:** 12 November 2021 10:45

**To:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Subject:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Dear parents/carers

We have been informed by our Council Health and Safety advisors that the planned excursion to see Beauty and the Beast can no longer take place. This is because it would not conform to the government's Covid guidance for schools. We are not the only school that has been affected by this, but we are of course, very disappointed.

The cost of the tickets will be reimbursed.

On behalf of the Council please accept our apologies for any disappointment that this has caused.

**Ref 9****From:** Mairi.gougeon@parliament.scot <Mairi.gougeon@parliament.scot>**Sent:** 12 November 2021 12:28**To:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>**Subject:** FW: School events [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Good afternoon

I have been contacted by the constituent below regarding restrictions and I would be grateful if you could provide a response that I may forward on to her.

Kind regards

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Office Manager

Office of Mairi Gougeon MSP

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**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]**Sent:** 8 November 2021 11:03**To:** Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP**Subject:** School events

Dear Mairi,

I hope you can help. I would like to put in a complaint about the decision to ban live festive concerts and events within schools. I would like to hear the rationale behind this decision, given that theatres are allowed to be packed full, sporting matches and concerts are back up and running and there are very little restrictions in restaurants and shopping centres. With school children already having had to give up so much over the past two years, I would like to ask why more restrictions are being placed upon them. The only difference I can see, is that these events don't generate any income. I would appreciate a full answer explaining the difference between school events and other live events that are being allowed to go ahead. I have spoken to my local councillors and the director of education and it seems this is a government restriction rather than a local one.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 10**

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 12 November 2021 14:26

To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP Subject: Schools

Dear first minister I am writing to you today as I am appalled at the way the Scottish government is handling the pandemic, there are deaths everyday due to COVID outbreaks again and ones I hear about out in general public not from behind computer or emails that mostly are from people fully vaccinated and booster jabs which saddens me. However our government has opened our country up to thousands and thousands of different people from all over the world some very high leaders and all for climate now the dangers here are high and my sons schools can't even have a show where at least one parent can be there for them which would be a fraction of the people that you and our government has let into our country from all over the place, England we're having a peak because they were doing things slightly differently and you have allowed every county in England to send up teams of officers to Scotland where we were containing the virus well, now today we have been issued from schools there policies on kids having activities outside we'll no way do I agree with this I am not risking my kids lives anymore while you all get to put on a show for the rest of the world to see COP 26 with all its bang and under 30 kids need to be outside no, I would like answers on this now as it all seems a big conspiracy.

Thanks [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 11**

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 12 November 2021 18:09

To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP

Subject: Schooling

CAUTION: This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms Sturgeon I was hoping you would be able to explain to me why thousands of fans can visit football grounds, we have COP26, nightclubs open but I will be unable, despite having a vaccine passport, to watch my 6 year old daughter in the Christmas show as [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] will not allow parents in the building. Despite following restrictions, taking lateral flow tests and in general following Government guidelines this simple event is being denied for the 2nd year running. This isn't just about me as a parent being able to watch my child but at all the loss of learning & activities my child has missed out in the last 2 years and this is another milestone that they are missing out on. I look forward to hearing your response and reasoning for this.

Kind regards

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 12**

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

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 12 November 2021 21:02

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Subject: Christmas in schools.

Hi there,

On receiving an email from my sons school this afternoon informing parents about the Christmas nativity, I was really sad to read that yet again the children will not be able to perform in-front of their parents.

I was looking for a simple explanation from the Scottish Government to justify why parents cannot have a covid passport to go and watch their child perform at Christmas yet we can take our children to pantomimes and football matches.

The covid restrictions excuse is bearing really heavily on parents and is depriving us of lovely moments and memories with our children. Why are we being punished so much??

I understand how you may be inundated with emails but a response from yourself or one of your other colleagues would be really appreciated.

It's really upsetting that as a parent, I am missing key milestones we should all have with our children.

If there is anything that can be done, can you please help authorities like [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] make a u turn on their decisions.

Many thanks

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 13**

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Date: Friday, November 12, 2021

Subject:

To: Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot

Good evening

I am writing in reference to recent correspondence by [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

She states that for Christmas activities:

1. Scottish Government guidance for schools still does not permit large gatherings of pupils indoors for events such as assemblies due to the enhanced transmission risks of having large groups in close proximity in an enclosed space for an extended period of time. This means that we are not able to offer many of our Christmas activities, such as visits to pantomimes  
2. Across [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] it has been agreed to treat all performances with audiences in the same way therefore we will not be able to invite parents into our schools and ECCs to attend concerts and other events.

I would like to ask you what evidence is being used to make these decisions. My child can go to a party with large groups of children and visit softplay or the cinema where there is no social distancing. In fact, social distancing is no longer a requirement for anyone. Large gatherings in clubs, pubs, weddings and concerts are all able to take place. Cop26, and international travel in general all seem to be acceptable, yet children sitting next to their peers (who they sit next to daily) at a pantomime is considered a risk. There is no group more disadvantaged than children and I would like an explanation as to why. If I can attend the theatre or cinema, why can I not watch a Christmas performance at school?

I am also at a loss as to understand why parents cannot, by appointment, have face to face discussions with teachers about their child's progress. I really think this goes against other restrictions in place for the environments I've already mentioned above.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

#### **Ref 14**

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

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 13 November 2021 20:41

To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject:

Hi Nicola

I hope your well after all the crazy things that hve been going on and as a nation we have been going through over the past 2 years.

Cop26 looked great, however this week I received a letter from my daughters school to Inform that the children will not be allowed to attend the pantomime this year due to covid ? However we are holding a massive gathering for people all over the world which I totally understand is for a great cause.

I myself will not be effected by this and neither will my children as I will take them myself, however there are lots of under privileged children through many of these schools that will

not be as privileged or as lucky to attend such a magical thing at Christmas time, some of these children only get to go to a pantomime with their school friends as this is now not being allowed which they are confused about considering there are people from all over the world meeting and hugging without masks on ?

Please let this be taken into consideration that these children deserve at least a pantomime after such a crazy two years,

Ps although people are judging you you are doing the best job you could be doing people are always looking to blame someone but your trying your hardest

Kindest regards [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] have a lovely weekend and a large glass of wine hen

**Ref 15**

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Sent:** 15 November 2021 15:16

**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Daniel.Johnson.msp@parliament.scot

**Subject:** Covid guidelines. Beauty and the beast

Hello there!My name is [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] and I'm an [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] . This Wednesday (the 17th of November) me and about 30 of my peers (not including staff)were set to go see beauty and the beast in the playhouse during school as we have recently been doing a topic on musical theatre and wanted to see the real thing. However,during communications,it was realised by the council that our trips technically violates school COVID guidelines as we cannot meet in crowds of more then 50.

While the numbers of pupils and staff fell under this number.The people in the playhouse would be pushing their number over 50. Now I can understand the concern of COVID as its still a pressing issue.However, I do have to draw to question the football celebrations a few months ago and the lack of enforcing these guidelines. On top of that our numbers fall under the 50 requierement and we were planing to all wear masks (except for those exempt including myself)personally,considering this is an educational trip that doesn't happen very often and we will most likley never get a chance like this again. I would also like to mention the playhouse already has strict COVID measures as I've been to the playhouse after it was reopened .

Me and a lot of others are extremely disappointed at how late this has been left for the council to realise a mistake on there part.Let it also be noted that if needed,a COVID test could be done in school in the hours leading up to the trip. I think it's extremely unfair to pick and choose where Covid guidelines are enforced. Especially when this is a one time chance trip and its for educational purposes.

The people who want to go on this trip would be following COVID guidelines given by the government so I don't understand why the trip has been called off. Especially two days before it.

Please get back to me or my school as soon as possible to see if theres any way of the trip being back on.

-[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 16**

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Sent:** 16 November 2021 13:08

**To:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: Extracurricular activities in schools (Case Ref: DJ13226)

Dear Minister,

I would like to raise the following on behalf of my constituent [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]. Her question is centred on the restrictions over extra curricular activities in Edinburgh – Is the SG content with this level of variation ranging from a full programme to essentially nothing at all? Please see the email below for more detail.

Yours sicnerely.  
Daniel

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**Daniel Johnson MSP**

0131 541 2145

danieljohnson.org.uk

Constituency Office

134 Comiston Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5QN

Daniel would like to keep you up to date with his activities in Parliament and in the constituency. You can sign up to receive regular updates and his eNewsletter [here](#).

Your data privacy will be taken seriously. Read Daniel's privacy notice [here](#).

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From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 16 November 2021 11:56

To: Johnson D (Daniel), MSP

Subject: Re: Extracurricular activities in schools [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

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or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Daniel,

The reason I had copied it to you was because this is Local Authorities interpreting the same SG guidance very differently. Is the SG content with this level of variation ranging from a full programme to essentially nothing at all?

Thanks,

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

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From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 16 November 2021 08:35

To: alison.dickie@edinburgh.gov.uk, Johnson D (Daniel), MSP , ian.perry@edinburgh.gov.uk

Cc: Cameron Rose , steve.burgess@edinburgh.gov.uk

Subject: Extracurricular activities in schools

CAUTION: This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councillors Dickie and Perry, and Daniel  
Johnson MSP,  
Cc Councillors Rose and Burgess

I am writing to you to express my concern about the lack of extracurricular activities in schools. I am a parent at [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information], and currently the only class that is allowed to run is swimming, while other children across Scotland are back to normal with regards to activities. Scottish Government guidance allows these activities to return and indeed the Get Into Summer programme shows that the SG recognises the importance of activities to child wellbeing.

According to the school, it is the Council that has decided activities are not allowed to run and have reaffirmed last week that schools are under substantially stronger restrictions than any other part of society. I would really like an explanation of why Edinburgh Council is taking such a hard line, when other local authorities making it work. Once again, children in the CEC area are being put at a disadvantage.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am not challenging the SG covid guidance itself, I am merely asking for it to be consistently applied across Scotland.

A second point I wanted to make is that the Council itself is going counter to this zero covid risk strategy by offering Active Schools classes in some schools. Which is a positive but again why is this not being done consistently. There are no AS classes Sciennes and indeed the school seemed to be unaware of AS returning until the parent body raised it.

I can see no logic behind the decision that sports classes are ok, but arts, drama, music and language classes are not. I would be interested to see the EQIA and CRWIA for this decision, as it seems to me that there are some obvious negative equalities impact on some groups of

children.

I hope you can provide a meaningful answer at your earliest opportunity

Best wishes,

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 17**

**From:** Cole-Hamilton A (Alex), MSP <Alex.Cole-Hamilton.msp@parliament.scot>

**Sent:** 17 November 2021 16:55

**To:** Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>

**Subject:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Dear Clare,

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituent, [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information], who got in touch with me about concerns over guidance that parents cannot watch their children's nativities and Christmas concerts.

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] is unclear as to why this guidance is in place when many other restrictions have been relaxed and why provisions can't be put in place for parents to watch their children perform.

I would be grateful for any clarity you can provide here and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Alex

**Alex Cole-Hamilton**

**Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Western Constituency**

**The Scottish Parliament | Edinburgh | EH99 1SP and 151 St John's Road | Edinburgh | EH12 7SD**

**alex.cole-hamilton.msp@parliament.scot**

**Ref 18**

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Sent:** 18 November 2021 18:14

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Daniel Johnson MSP <daniel.johnson.msp@parliament.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Subject:** Cancellation of Senior school social events

Dear Ms Somerville,

My son's school have emailed the parent body today to inform them of the decision to cancel both the S5 and S6 balls in December. They cite government guidelines such as 'large gatherings should be avoided' as the main reason.

I am amazed that my son is able to go to the theatre with hundreds of people, watch a rugby game at Murrayfield with thousands of people, go to the cinema, restaurants etc freely but can not spend a few hours, for one evening with the very people he has literally spent the entire term with. The logic of these guidelines is nonsensical and downright cruel to these children. These are the same kids that have missed their National 5 exams, spent mainly lonely months of distance learning, missed out on sport, entertainment, family....the list is endless. These are also the kids still wearing masks at all times within the school environment whilst their counterparts in England have been free of this regulation since May.

So, my question to you as Cabinet Secretary for Education is, why are you adding to their long suffering by not allowing social events to go ahead? Surely we can allow them some of the freedom's adults are now enjoying?

Yours sincerely,  
[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 19**

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Your rules are ridiculously unfair and hypocritical. Why are children the victims again. Once again, the memories they can make, their childhood taken away. No nativities this year. Because parents aren't allowed in the buildings!! But... all the cop events are allowed, thousands upon thousands of people! Nightclubs yet again, gigs pantomimes?! Where is the logic?!?! Why can parents not go masked and show their vaccine certificates when other places are allowed thousands of people!!! Why am I missing out AGAIN on seeing my child in his final year of nursery nativity!!! He will have no nativity ever at nursery because of this!!! How sad and memories not made. But when he's older I will be telling him it's okay because we went to a full pantomime instead. My sons school only holds 150 pupils the classes are 30 max!! My older son still has his assembly virtual and they can't get together to celebrate achievements as a school every week sad sad sad I urge you to think again.

Sent from my iPhone

**Ref 20**

Dear Shirley-Anne,

**CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

I am writing on behalf of a constituent, [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] who recently contacted me regarding some concerns he has regarding coronavirus restrictions on school Christmas activities. [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

explains that his daughters are in Primary 1 and 2, and due to the Coronavirus pandemic he and his partner have never had the chance to see them in a nativity play. Recently, they received a letter from their children's school outlining that again, they will not be allowed to visit the school and watch this event this year. [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] would like an explanation as to why pubs, nightclubs, sporting events etc are all allowed to return to some form of normality, parents are being forced to miss out on seeing their children taking part in Christmas plays. Any support you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

### **Ref 21**

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 19 November 2021 18:08

To: Fiona.Hyslop.msp@parliament.scot; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Kate Forbes <kate.forbes.msp@parliament.scot>; Maree.Todd.msp@parliament.scot; Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot; Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>; john.swinney.msp@parliament.scot; Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>; Anas.Sarwar.msp@parliament.scot; Briggs Msp <miles.briggs.msp@parliament.scot>; Jackie.Baillie.msp@parliament.scot; Jamie Hepburn MSP <Jamie.hepburn.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Not allowed inside schools for Christmas nativity!

Please can you explain why schools and children are still living with restrictions?!

Can you explain to my 5 year old why I am not allowed to watch a nativity! His only chance this year to do it! He was so sad coming home telling me parents are not allowed! He Dosent understand why I was allowed to go to his big brothers and not his!

Adults are allowed to go everywhere else! Cop, nightclubs gigs etc! Still it's the children that are being neglected. I have been double vaccinated and following all the rules and still am going to miss out on wonderful memories. It has honestly made me cry I have been in flood of tears thinking of it. It might not mean much to you politicians but to me a mother to not be able to see my son in his nativity is heartbreaking. But in England they are allowed?!

Surely double vaccinated can be allowed in schools and negative lateral flow?

What is the problem?!

It's just so unfair and heartbreaking the memories they won't have. When everything else has gone back to normal makes me so teary writing this email.

Please I beg you to think again about schools can we show our certification? Can I do a lateral flow even to see my sons only chance performing a nativity Do you care about children? I don't think so :( Sent from my iPhone

**Ref 22****From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]**Sent:** 19 November 2021 23:19**To:** Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>**Subject:**

Hi can I have a little help please I am Jade. I have a child in primary 2...the thing is all us parents can't enter the school to watch our children perform their wee Christmas concert we can't go to the little Christmas fairs they hold it sad I have missed out on a lot because we can't enter the school and I don't know how to get involved online with it all my son is missing out on things too. Yet we have the SSE holding a Stormy concert and lots more with over 11000 people attended these. Please could we try concentrate on schools for family's so we can all get involved its been very neglected with a lot of updates and changes to be back to normal.

Thank you very much I hope you can get back in contact about this as myself and lots more parents would love things to be back to normal even just a little.

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 23****From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]**Sent:** 21 November 2021 18:21**To:** Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>**Subject:** Covid Guidelines

CAUTION: This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Nicola,

Can you please explain to me the reasoning behind this photo [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information] please ?

This is a local nightclub in our town and as you can see it is packed out.

Now my question to you is why on earth can this be allowed but I cannot attend my only child of who I had to have 7 rounds of IVF to have p1 parents evening class? I cannot attend her Christmas nativity play at school, I cannot attend her dance class Christmas show, my child has to sit in her classroom freezing with windows opened and majority of her class is choked with the cold abs getting chest infections yet these guys are all partying dancing jam packed in a nightclub? It is an absolute disgrace that this is happening. If 3 people cannot attend a parents evening yet hundreds can attend a nightclub thousands can attend football matches then there is clearly something wrong.

This urgently needs to be looked at for the kids sakes and the parents I and many other parents are missing out on so much with their kids.

These guidelines for schools etc need to reviewed and it should be the same across the

board.

Children are sad and upset that their parents cannot see them at shows etc please do something about this.

Kind Regards

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 24**

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Sent:** 22 November 2021 11:13

**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** School/nursery

Im wanting to know why children are being punished so much with covid?second year im missing a Christmas concert,missed the last nursery one,graduation & now missing the 1st one in P1 now please tell me why football,Wimbledon,grand prix the silly cop26 etc is all allowed but parents can't sit in a hall with a mask & watch there kids???which schools could spread out mon to fri?think its disgusting how much there being punished & the rules are shocking. Im self employed & lost everything as it is without getting a call about a cold cough. Who pays me then?no ones allowed the yearly cold now its a joke. And yes i have covid but really only way to deal with it is letting folk mix like normal for immune systems to work. Public health hasn't replied to 2 emails about this surprise surprise. And the people that get put down as dying with covid that hasn't had it is awful!!!!

**Ref 25**

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Sent:** 23 November 2021 10:25

**To:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>

**Subject:** School Nativity shows

Good morning

I hope this finds you well.

Can you please advise whether it is Scottish Government advice or local authorities decision not to allow parents to attend primary school Nativity shows?

Many thanks

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Ref 26**

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]  
**Sent:** 23 November 2021 14:41  
**To:** Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>  
**Subject:** Schools

Dear Nicola

My name is [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

I am contacting you as a concerned parent, regarding our ongoing exclusion from our children's schools & events within them.

Everyone is well aware of the events which have affected the world over the last two years. They have been sad & devastating to say the least. As things have began to return to a new kind of normality, I am left extremely confused as to why events within our children's schools, especially in the run up to Christmas, are still not permitted to go ahead? We have just hosted COP26, sporting events and their competitions have resumed, gyms reopened, cinemas, shopping centres, music venues, nightclubs, bars, restaurants, travel has opened up, I could go on. Yet, the children & families still continue to be affected by being shut out of school life.

It does not come across like this is an issue which is of any importance. However, it is paramount that in person, face to face involvement between schools, children & families resumes, to allow us the hope to repair & rebuild bonds, which have suffered greatly, and unnecessarily continue to be adversely affected by this ruling.

Our children have gone such a long time missing out on various parts of normal life. Especially school life. Many children & their families do not have the luxury of attending football games to have fun, going to pubs to meet friends and family. Where is the concern for everyone involved & their mental health. It is more than past the time in which schools should be allowed to open their doors & quite frankly, it is nothing short of a disgrace & disaster that they remain locked in the situation by our government.

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

## **Ref 27**

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]  
**Sent:** 23 November 2021 15:37  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>; [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]  
**Subject:** URGENT Scottish Borders School Christmas party cancellations. Please can I receive a response within 24 hours.

Dear Cabinet Secretary

I am writing with concern and disgust at the decision to cancel school Christmas Parties for the children of the Scottish Borders.

My children attend [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Could you please advise me on why this decision was made? Is this decision a government led decision or one by our local council?

I am absolutely perplexed as there are events going on all over Scotland during the festive period with works parties and nightclubs open and public houses open and theatres and cinemas.

How are these children any different? They mix all day in school and at after school clubs. The majority of the 12-15 years olds are also now vaccinated.

These children have been through the worst times imaginable and yet we are discriminating against them in the worst way. Mentally I think this is also a step too far. How to really suck the joy out of Christmas for them at a time when they need it most.

I know children who are extremely upset and feeling very vulnerable at this latest blow. They are also asking why they are not allowed when other people are?

Can you answer that? I need help with this answer.

I look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

A very concerned parent

**Ref 28**

**From:** [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

**Sent:** 23 November 2021 16:21

**To:** Leitch J (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Regulations

Dear Professor

I am very dismayed when I see headlines like this aimed at yourself

I am very dismayed when I see headlines like this aimed at yourself

"If you can attend this large event why can parents not attend a P1 nativity play?"

However I must strongly object to the fact I could go to a nightclub eat, drink, dance and sing to music all without a mask and share this event with hundreds of others and yet this government is not allowing schools to have a Christmas show or have a nativity play in front of parents .I must say totally bonkers in my view

Does this mean that my church is banned from having such a play in front of a congregation, it is bad enough that we must wear masks to sing. What is the reasoning behind this because in my opinion this is all wrong and a restriction in our freedom to worship.

**Ref 29**

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

From: [redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]

Sent: 28 November 2021 17:01

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>

Subject: School pants!

Minister,

Can you please explain why I am prohibited from attending my grandchildren's school plays ..... but can go to football matches and busy shops etc where scant attention is given to Covid 'rules'.... It makes no sense; I support sensible controls but have no time for such stupid ones!

[redacted - section 38(1)(b) personal information]