

**This document contains 5 email exchanges which fall within the scope of this FOI.**

**Please note that the document to accompany Email Exchange 4 is included separately in this return.**

### **Email Exchange 1**

**From:** [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@cosla.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 August 2019 15:38  
**To:** Home Education <homeeducation@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** COSLA response

Hi

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Home Education Discussion paper. Normally we would ask our Children and Young People Board for an opinion and seek their views. However as this more or less a pre-consultation discussion we thought it would be more useful to consult Board members on the next stage which looks like it will be the actual consultation. I note that you have also sought views from Director's of Education as well as social work leads. Both of these groups will be in a better position to provide detailed responses to the questions set out in the discussion paper given they are involved in the direct delivery of education or services which support children and young people with their education.

Given the general nature of our comments I have provided some general comments below rather than use the discussion paper.

Overall we would be supportive of a refresh of the guidance on Home Education. It is clear that there are sections of the guidance which require to be upated to reflect a changed policy and legislative landscape.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 needs to reflected. In particular there needs to be more of an emphasis on children rights. Moreover as the main legislative driver in relation to Children's Services Planning some thought needs to be given to how the HE Guidance addresses the different parts of the Act. For example what is the status of the Named Person (who would normally be a Headteacher) in relation to a child or young person who is home educated. In discussion with some of our members there are concerns that there will be circumstances where the Headteacher never meets a child or young person.

The guidance also needs to reflect how central the UNCRC is to the child or young person having a voice in their education and the implications this has if a child or young person were to disagree with a decision taken by a parent to educate them at home. How do we balance parental rights and responsibilities with the rights of the child?

At the next stage of consultation we will consult fully with our member authorities.

Any questions just give me a call

**[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]**

**[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]**  
**[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]**

## COSLA

CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Verity House  
19 Haymarket Yards  
Edinburgh EH12 5BH

Tel. [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@cosla.gov.uk

Our Business Address is : COSLA, Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh, EH12 5BH. t: +441314749200 w: <http://www.cosla.gov.uk>

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## Email Exchange 2

**From:** [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]  
<[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@cosla.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 25 July 2019 14:28  
**To:** Home Education <homeeducation@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Home education guidance review

Hi [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]

Apologies for the delayed reply. Can I just check in terms of local authorities has this just been sent to us?

[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** homeeducation@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 11 July 2019 16:07  
**To:** [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]< [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@cosla.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Home education guidance review

Dear [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)],

You may recall my colleague [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)] speaking with you recently regarding our plans to engage with local authorities and the wider home education sector to review the current home education guidance.

Please see the attached discussion paper. The purpose of this discussion paper is to assess whether the current published statutory guidance, which was last updated in 2007, is still helpful and fit for purpose, or whether it should be amended or improved to build on the current support available.

Ministers have requested we engage with stakeholders from local authorities, parent representation groups and, importantly home educators and their representative groups, to consider the attached discussion paper on Home Education.

Following this initial process of engagement with parties with an interest in Home Education, we will prepare revised guidance for a formal consultation later this year, and aim to publish updated guidance by summer 2020.

I should be clear that the Scottish Government recognises home education as a key aspect of parental choice and Scottish Ministers do not expect to alter that well established position or make changes to the legislative framework that underpins home education in Scotland.

It would be very helpful to have your responses on the Response Form (see Annex B in the attached document) by Friday 30 August 2019 by email to [homeeducation@gov.scot](mailto:homeeducation@gov.scot).

In addition, we would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you during the summer period to discuss the attached paper. Please do let me know when would be a convenient time to meet with you.

Kind regards,

[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]

Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]



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Our Business Address is : COSLA, Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh, EH12 5BH. t: +441314749200 w: <http://www.cosla.gov.uk>

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### Email Exchange 3

**From:** [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)] On Behalf Of Home Education

**Sent:** 11 July 2019 16:45

**To:** [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@aberdeencity.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@aberdeencity.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@angus.gcsx.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@angus.gcsx.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@argyll-bute.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@argyll-bute.gov.uk>; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@edinburgh.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@edinburgh.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38(1)(b)]@edinburgh.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@edinburgh.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@clacks.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@clacks.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@dumgal.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@dumgal.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk>; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@eastdunbarton.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@eastdunbarton.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@eastdunbarton.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@eastlothian.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@eastlothian.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@falkirk.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@falkirk.gov.uk>; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@falkirk.gov.uk' [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@falkirk.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@fife.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@fife.gov.uk>; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@education.glasgow.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@education.glasgow.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@highland.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@highland.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@highland.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@highland.gov.uk>; 'BCC emails blocked by firewall' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@inverclyde.gov.uk>; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@moray.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@moray.gov.uk>; 'educationandsocialcare@moray.gov.uk' <educationandsocialcare@moray.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk>; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@northlan.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@northlan.gov.uk>; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@orkney.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@orkney.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@pkc.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@pkc.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@renfrewshire.gov.uk'

<[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@renfrewshire.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@scotborders.gcsx.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@scotborders.gcsx.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@shetland.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@shetland.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@south-ayrshire.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@south-ayrshire.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@southlanarkshire.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@southlanarkshire.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@west-dunbarton.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@west-dunbarton.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@westlothian.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@westlothian.gov.uk>; '[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@cne-siar.gov.uk' <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@cne-siar.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Home education guidance review

Colleagues,

Ministers have asked Learning Directorate officials to invite stakeholders from local authorities, parent representation groups and, importantly home educators and their representative groups, to consider the attached discussion paper on Home Education.

The purpose of this discussion paper is to gather the views of local authorities, other public, community and voluntary sector bodies with an interest in home education and, importantly, the views of home educators and their relevant representative bodies.

We aim to assess whether the current published statutory guidance, which was last updated in 2007, is still helpful and fit for purpose, or whether it should be amended or improved to build on the support currently available.

The Scottish Government recognises home education as a key aspect of parental choice and Scottish Ministers do not expect to alter that well established position or make changes to the legislative framework that underpins home education in Scotland.

Following this initial process of engagement with those with an interest in Home Education, we will prepare revised guidance for a formal consultation later this year, and aim to publish updated guidance by summer 2020.

It would be very helpful to have your responses on the Response Form (see Annex B in the attached document) by **Friday 30 August 2019** by email to [homeeducation@gov.scot](mailto:homeeducation@gov.scot).

We would be grateful if this discussion paper can be passed to officials within your authority who lead on Home Education and those with an interest in this area. We would very much welcome their views.

Kind regards,

[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]

Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | 0131 [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]



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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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## Email Exchange 4

**From:** [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 24 March 2021 17:49

**To:** [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@aberdeencity.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@angus.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@argyll-bute.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@edinburgh.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@clacks.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@cne-siar.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@dumgal.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@dundeecity.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@eastdunbarton.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@eastlothian.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@falkirk.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@fife.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@glasgow.gov.uk>; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@highland.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@inverclyde.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@midlothian.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@moray.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@moray.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@northlan.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@orkney.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@pkc.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@pkc.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@renfrewshire.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@scotborders.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@scotborders.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@shetland.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@south-ayrshire.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@southlanarkshire.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@stirling.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@west-dunbarton.gov.uk; [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@westlothian.gov.uk

**Cc:** [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@gmail.com; DirectorofLearning@gov.scot; Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot

**Subject:** URGENT: Letter to Directors of Education regarding private candidate for SQA National Qualifications

Dear Director of Education

Please find attached a letter seeking urgent information to allow us to determine capacity within the education system to support private candidates for the SQA National Qualifications this year.

Kind regards

[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)], [Learning Directorate, Scottish Government, Area 2B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ](#)

✉ email: [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot 📞 mobile: [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]  
🌐 url: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]

## Email Exchange 5

**From:** [redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)] <[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 23 March 2022 11:12  
**Cc:** Home Education <homeeducation@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Publication of SG Consultation today: Home education guidance

Directors of Education,

I am emailing to notify you that the Home education guidance: consultation is published today, 23 March 2022.

The consultation will run until 13 July 2022. You can access the consultation paper on our website here [Home education guidance: consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/home-education-guidance-consultation) and read and respond to the consultation questions through the Citizen Space portal for the consultation here [Home education guidance - Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/citizen-space/home-education-guidance)

A link to the consultation can also be found in our tweet this morning, available here [Twitter - Scottish Government Education](#)

Additional time has been built in to this consultation period to take account of the pre-election period for the Local Authority elections on 5 May 2022.

We welcome your engagement with the consultation. Further details on engagement activities will be available in the coming weeks. Please contact the home education mailbox with any questions that you may have, [homeeducation@gov.scot](mailto:homeeducation@gov.scot)

Kind regards

[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)] Learning Directorate |  
[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under Section 38 (1)(b)]