

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.com>

Sent: 23 January 2023 12:41

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: Child Assault - [redacted]High School

Hello

There is much in the media right now regarding the assault at [redacted]Academy. I would like to draw your attention to what happened to my [redacted]during school hours on [redacted] [redacted] [redacted].

My [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]who has just started out at High School has been relentlessly bullied for a few months now by a group of [redacted] [redacted] [redacted].[redacted]went to [redacted] guidance teacher in [redacted]to tell them[redacted]was afraid as they [redacted] were making threats of violence towards [redacted] We as parents were not made aware of this. These [redacted] have targeted [redacted] [redacted]and [redacted] [redacted]arranged to "jump" my [redacted]and for one of them to film it. The attached video is what this animal done to my [redacted]. I have the video as the second [redacted]who videoed it then put it online for everyone to see.

This is now a police incident but where I need support is in understanding why this thug is allowed to return to school [redacted]? How is my [redacted]meant to be comfortable and safe as school with his attacker and his group of [redacted]there? I am getting no response from my emails to the council so can you please watch this video and tell me it's right this boy gets to return to school tomorrow.

Thanks you

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 9 Dec 2022, 14:02
Subject: Schools approach to dealing with bullying
To: <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Dear Nicola,

I am writing to you today regarding my [redacted]year old [redacted] [redacted]and[redacted]high school, [redacted]High [redacted]. My [redacted]has been targeted by a group of [redacted]who were originally[redacted]friends for several months now. Initially I asked the school to deal with it however, over the summer the [redacted]made threats of physical violence towards my [redacted]which then involved the school liaison officer. The school told[redacted]that [redacted]should ignore it and it would stop eventually. [redacted]was being pushed to the floor in the corridors, called various names, isolated and[redacted]bag was hidden on more than one occasion.

The situation was so bad after the summer that every day was a challenge to get [redacted]into school. [redacted]became so distressed that[redacted]told me[redacted]wanted to [redacted] [redacted]because [redacted]didn't feel safe anymore. To put this into context for you, my [redacted]and I were [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]to the [redacted]in [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]and so as you can imagine this was a [redacted]for my [redacted]as that night[redacted]asked [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]to [redacted]and I genuinely didnt know the answer. The situation affected our whole family and I became so stressed I had to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted].

I dont feel that the school have dealt with this appropriately. I keep being told someone will call me back and it is either days (sometimes a week) later or it never happens. They make me feel as though I am some over the top [redacted]and that I am bothering them. Last week I phoned and specifically asked to speak to the headmaster and it was the guidance teacher who phoned me back. [redacted]told me[redacted]would call me again the following monday and tried once and then sent an email saying[redacted]would call the following day and did not follow through on this. It is now Friday and still no call.

I asked for my [redacted]to be referred tier two for [redacted] [redacted]in [redacted]and as far as I know[redacted]has only just been added to the waiting list which I believe is [redacted]/[redacted]months long.[redacted]would have been seen by now if this had been followed through when I made my original request. I also had asked for a referral to be put in to SPA for an [redacted] [redacted]which again remains outstanding which will add to the waiting time. Not only have the school not dealt with the bullies appropriately they have failed to refer [redacted] (in a timely manner) to a service that can help[redacted]manage[redacted][redacted]in the toxic environment[redacted]finds herself in. If the [redacted]were causing issues for the teachers this would have been dealt with very differently. I have two [redacted]who were failed by the school and my [redacted]will not end up with the same fate if I can help it. I am not just pursuing this for [redacted]but for all the children in similar situations who don't have parents who are able speak up for them. I see so many

children coming through [redacted] who have been or are being bullied. The pressure on mental health services is immense, especially after covid and many of these children would not be presenting to the service if the issues in school were being dealt with at school level. Bullying has adverse effects on children and their development and that is not just from a professional perspective but from personal experience. My [redacted] is [redacted] now and only leaves the house to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. It also has an effect on their education. My [redacted] would like to become a [redacted] but [redacted] needs to be able to be in school and not be in a constant state of hypervigilance to learn and do well. This is a culture that needs to change and the schools need to change their response to how they deal with it.

I feel like I am fighting a losing battle and that no one is listening to what I am saying.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email

Kind regards

[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@msn.com>
Sent: 14 November 2022 17:54
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Help

Hi I'm hoping you can help I've attached a copy of a email I sent to your other office by mistake. I do hope you can help as no one else is helping. And I'm worried about my [redacted] mental health if [redacted] is force to go back to the school where [redacted] is bullied every single day. I know how this feel. Please help [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>

Sent: 23 September 2022 16:09

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>

Subject: [redacted]High School

Dear Ministers,

I am writing with reference to the policy entitled: 'Included, engaged and involved part 2: preventing and managing school exclusions'. Including this reference: "4. In discharging their functions under the [Education \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#), an education authority shall not exclude a pupil from a school under their management to which [redacted] has been admitted, except where they are of the opinion that the parent of the pupil refuses or fails to comply, or to allow the pupil to comply, with the rules, regulations, or disciplinary requirements of the school."

I will keep this as brief as possible. For the past few months the children at [redacted] High school, and further local residents of [redacted], have been victimised and terrorised by a gang of children attending the high school. These children now have numerous assault charges against them, have committed arson, carry knives, and frequently vandalise and litter the environment.

Last [redacted], [redacted] my [redacted] ([redacted]), was attacked by [redacted] of these [redacted], with no provocation or previous interaction. [redacted] was punched repeatedly in the [redacted] and [redacted], and had his [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] a [redacted] [redacted]. [redacted] finally escaped, [redacted] from the [redacted], [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted]. We spent [redacted] in hospital where [redacted] had a [redacted] [redacted], and [redacted] was diagnosed with [redacted] v [redacted] [redacted], a [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] an [redacted] appointment (still to have), a [redacted] [redacted] requiring [redacted] [redacted] (still to have), and concussion. The police arrested and pressed charges against the [redacted] in question. The following day another [redacted] was attacked, and again charges were pressed. This [redacted], at school lunchtime, a young [redacted] was attacked and beaten in the [redacted] near the school. The police expressed their frustration that, while they have the authority to arrest and charge the perpetrators, policies prevent any action being taken against the [redacted]. The perpetrators are still attending the school, and I am not prepared to allow my [redacted] to return to an unsafe environment.

As a [redacted] v I understand and am in favour of reform and rehabilitation of needy young people; this behaviour is clearly a cry for help, attention and care. However, the safety of our children should be paramount, and so protecting the rights of young criminals should not be prioritised over the safety of innocent young people. Perhaps the reformation and therapy would be best placed in the institutions that currently serve as punitive detention for young offenders?

I understand that detention centres have historically only led young people to lives of crime and drug addiction as adults, but it is important to recognise that in cases such as these it is only a matter of time until the [redacted] reach the age where they will be charged and sentenced as adults, when they will still follow a life of crime and drug addiction. By this time, though, they will have learned that authority is powerless and not to be respected. By this time they will have physically assaulted, perhaps even

killed more children. This is the message that all children are learning, that the school and the police have no power.

The 'measures' that have been put in place, such as assemblies for the children, are out of touch and massively underestimate the social intelligence of children. This was what was said to me by a pupil of [redacted] [redacted]school, yesterday:

"They made us have an assembly today, it was ridiculous. They went on about LGBTQ people not feeling safe in our school, well no, of course they don't. But neither does anyone with these nutters running things. Then they talked about popularity and hierarchy, like this gang is about that. No clue, they have no clue. We all clapped, I wonder if the teachers realised it was sarcastic?"

These 'measures' are nowhere near sufficient, they are frankly, laughable. The writers of this policy are clearly out of touch with the reality of young people and school life today.

Stripping authorities of their power to enforce consequences to young people teaches all young people that they are 'untouchable', which will encourage more violence and crime in young people. It removes boundaries and respect, it renders well raised children vulnerable, it creates a situation where parents will find they have no choice but to take matters into their own hands.

. The initial statement determines that "an education authority shall not exclude a pupil from a school under their management to which [redacted] has been admitted, except where they are of the opinion that the parent of the pupil refuses or fails to comply, or to allow the pupil to comply, with the rules, regulations, or disciplinary requirements of the school."

Rationally, surely, the crimes committed by these children warrant a failure to comply with rules, regulations and disciplinary requirements of the school? Surely these crimes warrant exclusion? Why then, is this not happening?

The policy is not working, it is creating tensions between education staff, police and the community. Until now I have always voted for the SNP, but a government who is effectively not protecting my children, and creating a dystopian seeming, lawless community through romanticised policies, is absolutely failing. Please restore faith in the children and parents of [redacted], by restoring authority.

Sincerely,
[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 21 September 2022 12:21
To: Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>
Subject: Bullying at school

Hi I'm emailing with hope of some guidance [redacted]I've emailed wrongly I apologies as I am Anxious on what to do my [redacted]old [redacted] [redacted]who suffers [redacted] [redacted] (completely [redacted])started [redacted] [redacted]school [redacted] [redacted]everything was going Great[redacted]was confident [redacted]but within few days[redacted]requested [redacted]to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]so I asked him if Anyone was bothering him[redacted]said No [redacted]has severe [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]life is Bit different[redacted]doesn't do social media thank god comes home goes to school few months pass found out from friend that[redacted]was [redacted]in [redacted]not at school when got him[redacted]told me that Lady had taken him out of class questioned my child for [redacted]about [redacted]v when[redacted]clearly shows no signs of being [redacted] [redacted]user phoned school asked why this lady [redacted] [redacted]support worker[redacted]also told me[redacted]works with [redacted]this was so upsetting for my child with thought on what they thought of him to question him as[redacted]did I was informed due to data protection they could not say WHY they did this?..my [redacted]is just [redacted]not [redacted]doesn't do social media ect no [redacted]signs of [redacted] use or violence school term ended when school went bk in [redacted] [redacted]first day bk [redacted]didn't go to certain classes his Excitement to go went[redacted]withdrew more from turninup to class so myself family friend went in to talk with Mr [redacted]v try find out reasons to why[redacted]was Acting strange then[redacted]told him a group boys were Bullying him & his friend on daily taunting them taking [redacted]everyday from [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]wanted to cry my boy was scared these boys find out[redacted]said as he'd be Beaten up this Deputy Head Mr [redacted]Assured my [redacted]this wouldn't happen[redacted]would get it sorted I was happy with that only for my [redacted]to come Running Home with what looked like [redacted] [redacted]on his [redacted] I have taken pic whilst my [redacted]was being beaten [redacted] [redacted]watched but did not intervieni to stop this never called or asked if my [redacted]had eny injuries if [redacted]was ok nxt day went to school to find out what was going on only to be told due to data protection they couldn't say??..wkend came so went bk to school find out if situation was dealt with my child was Safe to return after asking to see somone find out police woman walks into school whilst waiting to be seen I asked was[redacted]there regarding Assault of my child unknown to me[redacted]was there to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] to [redacted]I'm not [redacted]very [redacted]enough to know these actions get you nowhere the [redacted] [redacted]wouldn't [redacted]me wasn't doing eny [redacted]Then miss [redacted] [redacted]Head teacher [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]told me in future was to make an appointment[redacted]did no punishment to these [redacted]who are now thinking we can bully these [redacted]without punishment since they have broke my [redacted]phone I've been too worried to put him to school as [redacted]doesn't feel safe also feel Extremely Discriminated on so does my child who informed me that it's teachers there are other matters also that shows Clear

Discrimination as we are a [redacted]family please if you can't help got to be someone who can 🙏[redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>

Sent: 21 September 2022 11:20

To: SG Complaints <SGComplaints@gov.scot>

Subject: school

Dear whom this concern.

I am a parent of a child that I feel our case with [redacted] council has been unfairly been looked at. for over a yr my [redacted] has refused too attend school [redacted] primary due too a [redacted] assault from another pupil leaving my [redacted] with anxiety school has down they best but feel let down from social work department that are also working with us as [redacted] was put in place. Due too school refusal .my [redacted] ask for [redacted] [redacted] due too anxiety .and council are [redacted] this move of school .my [redacted] health has been affected and put alot of strain on the family .I have drain every resource possible too help him can u kindly give me any more guidance on this matter please.

Thank u.

[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: 11 September 2022 17:33
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Staff safety in school

Dear Shirley-Ann

My [redacted] is a [redacted] a [redacted] [redacted] in [redacted] and has been there for approximately [redacted] years.

I am contacting you concerning staff safety within schools. My [redacted] is verbally abused at least once a day, threatened and our house has been attacked by pupils throwing stones/ rocks etc at [redacted] [redacted].

This week at work my [redacted] heard an incident in the corridor of another teacher being verbally abused, [redacted] came out his class to assist. [redacted] was then also subjected to verbal abuse which contained [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] slurs. Another teacher came out of their class due to the disruption and was also abused. It was reported to senior management and the headteacher did speak to my [redacted] but the gist of it is the pupil has other issues.

Pastoral care also spoke to my [redacted] the following day and said the [redacted] has [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] shouldn't have intervened.

The following day the pupil then threw something in my [redacted] class which then [redacted] all over his [redacted] and [redacted] as [redacted] was seated at his desk. Thankfully [redacted] had his [redacted] on and the campus police officer is involved. Unfortunately this is not an isolated incident, this is the situation in most schools within Scotland. In no other workplace would staff be expected to deal with the level of verbal abuse, the threat of physical abuse and nothing be done.

Whilst inclusion to main stream education is a benefit to some it is overall detrimental to staff, other pupils and the education delivered. Staff do not have the support to manage children with complex needs in mainstream schooling.

My [redacted] has also been physically assaulted on a number of occasions at [redacted] [redacted] school or been threatened by the same [redacted] and the response is always that [redacted] has other issues.

This situation cannot be allowed to continue, something needs to be done to ensure school is a safe environment for pupils and staff.

Please consider reviewing the policy for inclusion regardless of the complex needs and the requirements for there still to be consequences for abuse verbal and physical on staff and pupils. The needs of these pupils are being prioritised over the needs of everyone else within the school environment.

Please assist in keeping staff and pupils safe.

Kind Regards

[redacted] [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@email81.com> **On Behalf Of** [redacted]
[redacted]

Sent: 05 September 2022 19:53

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: Re:URGENT- [redacted] [redacted], [redacted] [redacted]- [redacted]

URGENT

First Minister, Respected Nicola Sturgeon,

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Respected Shirley-Anne,

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Respected Humza Yousaf,

Good day.

As a matter of grave concern and urgency.

As there is alot to mention, I will keep try to keep this brief.

Regarding my [redacted], [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]and [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted], currently at, [redacted] [redacted]HS, [redacted] [redacted].

Having mentally exhausted all avenues of approaching and finding an resolution, the senior management at [redacted], ER Education dept and ER Head of Education, Mark Ratter, of the worrying, ongoing bullying and chastisement of our children, all pleas to the relevant authorities, is to no avail.

Our children, are [redacted]being subjected to ongoing bullying and chastisement of pupils from [redacted], in school and outwith, every single day and in addition, during the school holidays and in addition, far away as [redacted] [redacted] [redacted], where the Police have intervned in this matter to the "VULNERABLE PERSON DATABASE DEPT" and a report has been compiled and been submitted for the consideration to the "CHILDREN'S REPORTER ", also an incident at [redacted]Park, [redacted] [redacted]the perpetrators being, pupils from [redacted].

The expanse of the bullying, which is all originating from pupils of [redacted], our children have been picked on, whether they have been in school or out of school, whether it's on a school day or a school holiday, whether it's in [redacted] [redacted]or it's within [redacted], our children are getting bullied.

This is our children, and they are suffering mentally and if they're suffering, this will affect our children for the rest of their lives and furthermore, affecting them into adulthood. The incidents are increasing, even when there was a school summer break, after an meeting with the [redacted]senior management in [redacted]2022.

Recently, there was an [redacted]senior management meeting, on [redacted] [redacted] [redacted], alongwith my [redacted]and myself and our social worker, but, yet again, to no avail.

Due to the ongoing mental trauma inflicted on [redacted] [redacted]and on our [redacted]as a whole and due to the farcical meeting, that took its toll on my [redacted], [redacted]last night had an [redacted]-[redacted] [redacted] [redacted], while in [redacted] [redacted],[redacted]couldn't [redacted], while [redacted]with great difficulty, to me on the phone at [redacted]and [redacted]to [redacted] me to [redacted]an [redacted] [redacted], worryingly, if the Ambulance had been another 2 minutes late, my [redacted]would have had serious consequences and [redacted] [redacted] [redacted].

This is my last hope, of pleading to yourselves, as I have requested, to transfer [redacted] [redacted]to an alternative school and that they should be with their other [redacted] [redacted], one being the eldest, at St. [redacted]HS, [redacted], [redacted] [redacted]and if that's not possible, then we are left with no-option and reluctantly, to have [redacted] [redacted]- [redacted], this has to happen as a matter of extreme urgency, we cannot continue with this ongoing burden and it has escalated. We only have this option to protect our children.

I would greatly appreciate and again, as a plea, to please assist [redacted] [redacted], in this traumatic life experience of their childhood, at your earliest opportunity.

I await for your response with anticipation.

Kindest regards,

[redacted] [redacted], [redacted] [redacted]& [redacted] [redacted].

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]. [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 06 September 2022 06:38
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

Dear Nicola,

I am writing to you in regards to bullying at school, I would like to know what you feel about it? I am being consistently told that because my [redacted]is being bullied by another child I need to calm down and 'remember that they are children'.

I am absolutely disgusted by this. I have spoken to several people within the local education department who are absolutely sticking up for this bully, which makes sense knowing his [redacted]does [redacted]for [redacted] [redacted].

I would like to know where I stand and what route I can take to have this dealt with properly, I mean higher than [redacted]Council. I am not interested in what they have to say, The [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]school manager told me "They will put plans in place" the same they have told me for the last [redacted]- [redacted]years[redacted]has been at the school dealing with said child. However, [redacted]already attacked another child yesterday so please expand on the safety of our children in schools.

I'd love to hear back from you, or your team.

Kind Regards

[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]. [redacted]@hotmal.com
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Sent from Samsung Mobile on O2
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]@yahoo.co.uk>

Sent: 01 September 2022 08:48

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Complaint

To whom it may concern

I am writing to you as a concerned and very upset parent.

On [redacted] [redacted] [redacted], my [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] attended High school as normal and was [redacted] [redacted] during a very [redacted] and unprovoked attack by a [redacted] year old [redacted]. [redacted] had his [redacted] repeatedly [redacted] off the [redacted] and even when [redacted] was shouted at that that's [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] so there was instantly no [redacted] or [redacted]. Fortunately there were other pupils who came to [redacted] aid and put him [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] as [redacted] was [redacted] on [redacted] [redacted].

This child was given a [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] which I'm told is an extreme punishment in Scottish schools and there is no ability to expel a pupil. I feel that the [redacted] [redacted] is much more of a reward than a punishment. How much worse does a situation have to become? My [redacted] could have been [redacted]. "Every child has the right to and education" what about my [redacted] right to safety in education? [redacted] now terrified to go back to school. Surely [redacted] can be removed and/or educated elsewhere.

The Police are involved and feel they have good enough grounds to charge the accused. I would really appreciate your support in this matter.

Could you also advise me how I begin to get legislation changed? I've been contacted by no less than [redacted] parents who are concerned now for their childrens safety in our school.

I look forward to hearing from you

Many thanks

[redacted] [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 30 August 2022 12:46
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Bullying at school

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]2022

Dear First Minister

I am writing to you with regards to bullying at high school. My [redacted]year old [redacted]has been tormented by a clique of girls for the past four months. [redacted]goes to [redacted] [redacted]in [redacted], [redacted] [redacted]

I once heard you say that bullying at school has to be stopped and this is why I m writing to you as only you can do something about it. I even read online that you were bullied as a child and so you must still remember that feeling of inadequacy and isolation.

There is a lot of talk as well about mental health in children and some of this is due to bullying and so unless bullying is stopped all these nasty situations in life are going to continue. My [redacted]took the correct road and [redacted]the [redacted]many times. [redacted]never managed to speak to the [redacted]who passed it on to his deputy. My [redacted]involved also the [redacted]

In the meantime my [redacted] [redacted]is distraught. [redacted]doesn t want to go to school,[redacted][redacted]finds[redacted][redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. Now I am not saying my [redacted]is an [redacted]but[redacted]doesn't deserve a group of [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]her. The school view it as part of adolescence and have said that many groups split and go their separate ways.

My [redacted]was [redacted]by [redacted]children at the same school and the head teacher referred to the children as good children just with a [redacted] [redacted].[redacted]is [redacted]now and rarely leaves the house apart from to go back and forth to work. This is the lasting impact this can have on a child. Just last week a video was circulated of an [redacted]kicking another girl in the head. Presumably this girl has been excluded from school however[redacted]has continued to [redacted] [redacted]the [redacted]at the [redacted]of the day [redacted]others. Where does this stop?

Another fight broke out in the [redacted] [redacted]and a [redacted]by [redacted]and [redacted]it up [redacted]in the [redacted]having [redacted] [redacted]for [redacted] [redacted]. This deters people from intervening so our kids are left to be beaten by other kids who think that they are untouchable.

I would appreciate it please if a legislation or something is created about bullying so the school has more power to stop this anguish in children or harsher sanctions are put in place for children who attack other children.

I know that for you this is not very significant with what you have to do in your day to day life but obviously it is VERY for the children that go through this day after day as well as their families

My [redacted] is a [redacted] in [redacted] and has had to take time of work to deal with this situation and keep on at the school which has resulted in people who have been waiting years to be seen having to wait even longer. Bullying doesn't just affect the child. It has an impact on everyone around them. Thanking you for reading this email and hopefully this nightmare can be solved for us and for many others.

Yours sincerely

[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 27, 2022 2:33:03 AM
To: Nicola Sturgeon <Nicola.Sturgeon@snp.org>
Subject: Bullying

Good morning afternoon Nicola

I want to express my frustration and deep concern of the impact of bullying and social media.

This week I was sent a video of a violent video that caused harm and anger. as the older generation we need to put a stop to how the younger generation are finding it acceptable how they are behaving and think it's ok as the penalty for there behaviour is not a deterrent.

This week I phoned my school with a video that wasn't my child but I was so upset with the footage , I knew the [redacted]and I gave[redacted]the evidence but the school asked me to delete it , I said no because the [redacted]needed it for evidence as a serious assault on[redacted]child .

I gave[redacted]the evidence[redacted]contacted the police because of the harm it caused and to the unfortunate reasons[redacted]child suffered severe injury to a previous incident through a car accident left[redacted]child In a vaulnreble position going forward in life .

I'm going to attach the video and I hope that the Scottish government take an interest and want to change the laws of social media, and films on the younger generation.

Drugs, violence ect is normalised in this generation with no deterrence.

Schools , police , government should have a zero tolerance to violence and all kids should be protected.

When I was young I feared a clip around the lug from my parents never mind the police coming to the door !!! , my parents never abused me there is always a massive difference between abuse and displine and values .

[Many thanks](#)

[redacted] [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

[attachment redacted under section 38(1)(b) (personal information)]

From: [redacted] [redacted]<ryx27@btinternet.com>
Sent: 23 August 2022 14:25
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Advice re serious ongoing bullying.

Hello Shirley-Anne Sommerville.

I write as a very concerned [redacted] [redacted]who has seen over the last few years the serious affects a school bully can have on my [redacted] and[redacted]family. My [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]is [redacted]years old and in primary [redacted]at [redacted]primary school in [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. Since attending the school nursery a young [redacted]called [redacted] [redacted]has affectively ruined[redacted]life with constant bullying and bad behaviour. This has been reported many times to the school and to the [redacted] [redacted]council Education department who all offer the same excuse "our hands are tied" We have had to contact the Police when the assaults were more serious and [redacted]was spoken by them to but this appeared to aggravate the situation. [redacted]is not the only victim here and many many parents have had similar problems with this [redacted]as have the teachers. The school have been contacted by such parents and some restrictions have been placed on him at intervals etc but what does it take to have [redacted]removed from the school if[redacted]does not conform.??

I appreciate everyone has the right to an education but surely the other children also have the right to one in a safe environment?? My [redacted] [redacted] was assaulted again last [redacted]in the school [redacted]again the incident was reported but the serious results of this latest incident resulted in[redacted]attending the [redacted]when[redacted]refused to go to school was not [redacted]or [redacted]and very very [redacted]. The Doctor did confirm [redacted]and stated they would be writing to the school re these concerns which were all attributed to one [redacted]. This is now having a very serious affect on[redacted] [redacted]and education and I want to know what are your guidelines on such bullying and what further action can we ask the school to take. The head teacher appears to be restricted in what actions can be taken but for nearly everyday [redacted]is at school there are problems. Surely bullying cannot or should not be tolerated???? This [redacted]is ruining the primary education of many young pupils and I personally do think[redacted]is fit for main stream education if[redacted]cannot control [redacted]and abide by the school rules. This is now nearly [redacted] [redacted]of complaining and worry but when medically it is affecting a young person who loved the school and was achieving well something surely has to be done.

There are other parents who have contacted the school and the region but like us the school takes some action but [redacted] [redacted]Education dept are burying their heads and doing absolutely nothing. Many parents would back all those comments made and probably add to them. So what can be done to salvage my [redacted] [redacted]s education and safety because this can dictate what happens in the rest of[redacted]life. I thank you for your time in reading and considering this letter and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

We need to act swiftly to restore my [redacted] [redacted]s confidence and general health so would appreciate if this could be dealt with as urgent.

Thanking You

[redacted] [redacted] ([redacted])

From: [redacted]@ic24.net>

Sent: 18 August 2022 22:14

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; [redacted]. [redacted].mp@parliament.uk; [redacted]. [redacted]@southlanarkshire.gov.uk; [redacted]@ [redacted]. [redacted].uk; [redacted]. [redacted]@ [redacted].gov.uk

Cc: [redacted]@ [redacted]- [redacted].s-[redacted].sch.uk; [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Serious Bullying Complaint

AO [redacted] [redacted]

Further to my note below, it is regrettable that I have to report yet another incident of BULLYING at [redacted] [redacted]School, which happened today.

To put it into perspective, my [redacted] [redacted] ([redacted]) has attended the school for ONLY four days – Two transition days from primary school, yesterday and today. On TWO of those days [redacted] has been on the receiving end of bullying. A simple statistic that is absolutely staggering!!!

Today whilst having lunch [redacted] was set about by TWO third year pupils (A [redacted] and a [redacted] – [redacted] & [redacted]). The end result was that [redacted] was [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] in [redacted]. Needless to say [redacted] was disturbed and very upset at the whole incident. [redacted] had to go to the [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] shirt [redacted] the [redacted] [redacted], which I find totally unacceptable. This happened just at the edge of “[redacted] [redacted]” [redacted] in the [redacted]. This area is supposed to be supervised by a teacher, however none were present. Was there any CCTV? If so, then I would like to use this e mail as a request for a copy.

This school has now got a continued history of bullying that has been reported by myself, and yet it still continues. Mainly by the same group of pupils, so they are known to the teachers.

ACTION REQUIRED

1. Can the First Ministers office please have a look at this case and put some resources behind it to find a resolution to the continuous bullying that I have reported at this school?
2. Head Teacher – Can you please give some re assurances that you will investigate before our forthcoming meeting? Despite repeated reports of bullying I am absolutely astonished that you have never contacted me to discuss the matter
3. [redacted] [redacted] – Can you please add this to the agenda for our meeting and also launch a full investigation with [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] department to see what steps have been taken to stem the bullying against my [redacted] and others?

I look forward to receiving your comments with the agreed action points.

[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted]@ic24.net>

Sent: 12 June 2022 20:11

To: 'firstminister@gov.scot' <firstminister@gov.scot>; [redacted].

[redacted].mp@parliament.uk' <[redacted]. [redacted].mp@parliament.uk>;

[redacted].v@[redacted].gov.uk' <[redacted].v@[redacted].gov.uk>; [redacted]@

[redacted].sch.uk' <[redacted]@ [redacted].sch.uk>; [redacted]. [redacted]@

[redacted].gov.uk' <[redacted]. [redacted]@southlanarkshire.gov.uk>

Cc: 'office@[redacted]- [redacted].s-[redacted].sch.uk' <office@[redacted]-

[redacted].s-[redacted].sch.uk>; [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Serious Bullying Complaint

Firstly,

I would like to thank [redacted] [redacted]and PC [redacted]who have both been in touch.

Disappointingly, but not surprisingly, there has been no follow up phone call from anyone at [redacted]High School. As a result of receiving zero reassurance from the school of any action being taken, and also to protect [redacted]from FURTHER mental and physical abuse, I can confirm that[redacted]will not be attending school until further notice.

Sent of Behalf of [redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted]@ [redacted].net <[redacted]@ [redacted].net>

Sent: 10 June 2022 13:36

To: 'firstminister@gov.scot' <firstminister@gov.scot>; [redacted].

[redacted].mp@parliament.uk' <[redacted]. [redacted].mp@parliament.uk>;

[redacted].v@[redacted].gov.uk' <[redacted].v@[redacted].gov.uk>; [redacted]@

[redacted].sch.uk' <[redacted]@ [redacted].sch.uk>; [redacted]. [redacted]@

[redacted].gov.uk' <[redacted]. [redacted]@[redacted].gov.uk>

Cc: 'office@[redacted]- [redacted].s-[redacted].sch.uk' <office@[redacted]-

[redacted].s-[redacted].sch.uk>; [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>

Subject: Serious Bullying Complaint

I am writing in relation to a very serious bullying that has occurred today at [redacted]High School, [redacted] [redacted].

My [redacted] [redacted] (v) has been the subject of continuous bullying for almost two years by a [redacted] called [redacted] [redacted].

Today, my [redacted] [redacted], [redacted], was on a [redacted]/ [redacted] day from[redacted][redacted] [redacted]– [redacted] [redacted]. [redacted]was

subjected to a [redacted]of [redacted]from the [redacted] [redacted], [redacted]. [redacted]was [redacted] [redacted]with phrases like....[redacted]a [redacted] [redacted].... you're an [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]...you will [redacted] [redacted]on [redacted] day when you [redacted]to [redacted]...you're [redacted]but [redacted]. I'm sure everyone would agree that this type of behaviour is highly unacceptable on a [redacted] [redacted], never mind any other day of the week.

I am now requesting immediate action to get this [redacted] excluded from [redacted]High school. Failure to do this will result in neither of [redacted] [redacted]returning to school until this happens. I also want Police Scotland involved, and as there has been continuous bullying and assaults against [redacted] [redacted].

I have raised a number of complaints with the school, including one in the last few months to which I heard NOTHING back. Again, unacceptable from an education establishment. This is an ongoing matter that IS NOT RESOLVED!!

ACTION POINTS – 1. Can [redacted] [redacted]please call me on [redacted] [redacted]to arrange a meeting with the Head of Education for [redacted] [redacted]and the Head of the School?

2. Can the First Ministers office please send me the policy that education departments should be following, where there is an instance of prolonged and continuous bullying, that lasts almost two years?

3. Can the school please ask PC [redacted]to contact me no later that [redacted]on [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

It is highly disappointing that I have had to write this e mail, despite the fact I have written numerous ones in the past. All previous e mails are available to review by my local MP and the First Ministers office should they require to see them.

I look forward to hearing back from the relevant persons in order to get this nasty situation resolved.

Regards

Sent on Behalf of [redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.com>
Sent: 27 June 2022 19:25
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.com>; [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>
Subject: Help for [redacted]

Hi Shirley-Anne,

I am writing to bring attention to the plight of my [redacted]year old [redacted], [redacted] [redacted]. As a result of school bullying, and associated anxiety, at [redacted] [redacted]High School in [redacted], [redacted]has been out of school for [redacted] [redacted]waiting on [redacted]to [redacted] [redacted]from [redacted] [redacted]Council.

The most recent [redacted]to [redacted] [redacted], where[redacted]lives, was submitted by [redacted] [redacted], [redacted]father, to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]ago yet only received by the school last week. [redacted] [redacted]told my brother today that they don't think they will have a place for [redacted] [redacted], and won't know for sure until [redacted] [redacted]. This is unacceptable.

My [redacted]has been [redacted] [redacted]on both sides of the [redacted]for over [redacted] [redacted], and I am a [redacted]with [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. We are fierce advocates of [redacted] [redacted]and extremely disappointed, on multiple fronts, in the school year[redacted]has experienced during the 2021-2022 school year.

My [redacted]needs a [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]now, not in [redacted].

Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted] [redacted]
Tel [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] ([redacted]father)
Tel [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.com>

Date: 27 June 2022 at 13:06:55 BST

To: firstminister@gov.scot

Subject: Urgent - My [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

Dear Nicola Sturgeon,

I am writing to you as my last resort and hope that you will be able to help my [redacted]. My [redacted] [redacted] attended [redacted] high school last [redacted], not so long after [redacted] was the victim

Of cyber bullying who involved [redacted] years at the same school threatening [redacted] and telling [redacted] to go kill herself and that they would give [redacted] the rope to do it. After [redacted] told me, I immediately contacted the school and made them aware of the peoples names who were involved and also took some screen shots of the messages. I was assured by the school that this would not be tolerated and that they would speak to the [redacted] involved.

Things seems to quieten down a bit for a while then it all started up again at end of [redacted]/start of [redacted] with similar messages, and also messages that the girls we're waiting for [redacted] to go to school so in their words "to [redacted] on [redacted] [redacted]". Again I contacted the guidance teacher Miss [redacted] who again said [redacted] would sort it.

Around start of march, one of these [redacted] approached my [redacted] and [redacted] friend, and had assaulted my [redacted] to which [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] to protect herself.

Police had then got involved who had charged my [redacted], [redacted] friend and few of the bullies. I was advised by the school that it would be best if I kept [redacted] at home to do [redacted] work, for [redacted] own safety which I have done since march. I had contacted east [redacted] council and asked them if I could be given an emergency placement for [redacted] in [redacted] [redacted] as I was concerned for my [redacted]s safety, but was told that I would need to put in a placing request due to us staying in [redacted]. I had submitted a placing request that day and awaited on outcome. I had also contact a MP called [redacted] [redacted] to which [redacted] [redacted] wrote me a letter back including a supporting letter which I was to submit to the panel on the day of my appeal.

Since having my [redacted] at home, I feel [redacted] is lacking education as school as sent very minimal work home, also one evening [redacted] had taken an [redacted] [redacted] (which we have a video of as [redacted] best friend had stayed that night to try keep [redacted] company), which lasted around 45 secs, [redacted] friend ran into the room

To get myself and [redacted] [redacted]. [redacted] does not suffer from [redacted] so this was a first for her. the next day I took Her to the doctors and explained the situation, [redacted] advised that it may be caused due to the amount of stress [redacted] has been under with the threats and as a precaution [redacted] was referring [redacted] to a first fit clinic for tests.

I received a letter from [redacted] [redacted] council advising that my placing request was rejected and that I would need to do an appeal on [redacted] [redacted], and that

[redacted] was position number 1 on the list for getting into [redacted], so I thought [redacted] would be in with a shout.

I did the appeal and explained to the panel what had happened and that I was concerned for [redacted] safety and also as this is impacted on both my [redacted] education and [redacted] health. I was told from [redacted] that they had a reserved space left but they were not wanting to give this to [redacted] and wanted to keep it reserved in case someone moved into [redacted] to which they would be entitled to that space. After waiting almost a week my appeal was rejected and I have nowhere for my [redacted] to go to school in August as I don't want [redacted] going to our catchment school in [redacted] as I have [redacted] who are a [redacted] in that school who have also advised against sending [redacted] there as in the words "is full of scum".

I would therefore please ask that you take the time to look into this matter for me please as we are really concerned for our [redacted].

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards
[redacted] [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

21st June 2022

To Whom This May Concern,

i am writing to you to gain some advice regarding my [redacted] ([redacted] [redacted] and her attendance at [redacted] Primary School.

[redacted], [redacted] [redacted]. Since attending this school in September 2019 my [redacted] has received misogynistic comments, comments about [redacted] looks as a person and [redacted] abilities and being told that [redacted] should die by certain [redacted] individuals within [redacted] class, culminating in [redacted]r being hit in the chest by a [redacted] in [redacted] class using a rugby ball, in which [redacted] was bruised for three weeks. On speaking to the Headmaster ([redacted] [redacted]) in the playground regarding [redacted] telling my [redacted] that [redacted] should be run over by a bus and that [redacted] should die in her sleep I was informed that as my [redacted] had not told the teacher about this incident that there was not much which could be done about it, which really upset me, in which I asked him if he could speak to the children about the impact of negative language and was met with "my children are fully aware of their language which I informed him that I was not happy and that I was disgusted and that my [redacted] has previously never experienced language detailing strippers, strip clubs and drugs before [redacted] had entered this establishment. After this both myself and the school management team have interacted on the odd occasion. There was another incident, in which I spoke to [redacted] [redacted] and was informed that I would be phoned back again in the afternoon, in which I never received a phone call ever until my [redacted] exited school one day in Primary seven and informed me that one [redacted] in [redacted] class who had joined in bullying [redacted] had hit [redacted] very hard in the chest with a rugby ball, in which [redacted] had hit [redacted] back, to which the teacher had taken my [redacted] aside and had told [redacted] that the [redacted] hitting [redacted] was "only and accident darling". My [redacted] came home distraught, in which I wrote a detailed letter outlining all of the bullying, to which a meeting was set up with my [redacted] on the following Monday, in which my [redacted] was afraid to go to school, so had to be absent. My [redacted] attended a meeting with [redacted] and [redacted] (Depute Head Teacher), in which [redacted] asked my [redacted] what [redacted] thought of the school and when [redacted] received the answer which [redacted] did not like threw [redacted] hands in the air and informed my [redacted] that if he didn't like it then go and find another school. My [redacted] asked [redacted] why I had never received the phone call [redacted] had promised and [redacted] was informed that the school was short staffed, so the phone call was not going to be an option. To which my [redacted] stated that it was not our fault that the school was short staffed and that the promised phone call should have proceeded anyway. [redacted] agreed with this. But did not comment further. After this it was arranged for

another meeting to take place after it had been agreed that my [redacted] would have a meeting with these [redacted] to discuss everything which has gone on regarding their negative language towards my [redacted] and hitting [redacted]. After this meeting my [redacted] was still very apprehensive to take physical education because [redacted] was being called a clown by these [redacted] and her self esteem was quite dented, in which [redacted] and [redacted] wanted everything to be as if nothing had happened to my daughter. I had spoken to [redacted] again at the school gate and had informed him that my [redacted] would not be taking part in Physical Education, as [redacted] still felt under pressure regarding the [redacted] in her class, to which I was met with an irritated look. On leaving school that day my [redacted] looked rather deflated and stated to me that [redacted] did not seem happy with [redacted] that [redacted] was not attending physical education. Another letter was the wrote, in which it was outlined that I would like some restorative work carried out within my [redacted] class, to which I was informed in a letter from [redacted] that there would be no restorative work and that they would now be concentrating on transition to High School and that if we were not happy with this as a family, then we would have to write to the education authority. At the time, as we were dealing with a very stressed child it did not seem to be a viable option to start to write letters again, as we were concentrating on our [redacted] and [redacted] own mental well being, instead of using our energies elsewhere. As this was just before Christmas holidays in 2021 it means that our [redacted] has been excluded from physical education for six months and has sat at the side or has read a book at the office for this amount of time, which has never been addressed by any member of staff within the [redacted] establishment. In January 2022 both myself and my [redacted] were invited to a meeting regarding transition to High School for my [redacted], in which it was insinuated that [redacted] did not know how to travel on a bus and that [redacted] would not know what to do for lunch. This meeting lasted for 8 minutes and was extremely uncomfortable and bizarre and achieved nothing, as if it is true that my [redacted] is behind in any way. Why hasn't this been addressed and why has [redacted] been given an exemplary report card stating that [redacted] is a mature student and a valued member of the school team. Again another incident occurred, in which my [redacted] was beginning to fear that [redacted] would be targeted to be assaulted again, in which I sent [redacted] an email, in which I asked if we could have a meeting with parents involved to inform them of their child's behaviour and stating that I felt as if I would have to homeschool my [redacted] for the remainder of her time in P 7, to which I received an email back stating blankly that I would have to inform the education authority if I wished to access home schooling and that parents do not get involved in any of these matters, so there would be no meeting or parents being informed of any matters regarding my [redacted]. My [redacted] then went on to have her SI visit at her new High School and I attended the parents session, in which I spoke to the pupil support teacher regarding all matters of bullying within [redacted] Primary School with my [redacted] and told him of my [redacted] reluctance to undertake physical education. I was then asked to speak to [redacted] to ask if [redacted] had passed this relevant information on to the [redacted] [redacted] pupil support team, so that they could include this in their file, so that they had all of the information when dealing with my [redacted] when SI started. On the following day I asked [redacted] [redacted] if [redacted] had done this, in which [redacted] looked at me and did not answer. Instead [redacted] told me that [redacted] would see how my [redacted] last visit was and would phone me. It is now the end of term and my [redacted] is leaving and I do not know if the relevant information has been passed on

or if my [redacted] did need an extra visit to school as I have never received the phone call, which I was promised. Again both myself and my family have been extremely let down and feel that we have been failed by staff from [redacted] Primary School. At present I have a child who is very apprehensive to trust staff, as they have offered no support and have never kept to their promises, leaving her wondering if this will happen in High School also. I am extremely disappointed and am very fearful, as I have a younger [redacted] attending this school at present, in which I am worrying about [redacted] future in education also. Both my [redacted] love learning and because of the careless actions and words of inconsiderate people, coupled with the fact that proper nurturing and support are apparently absent, within the school environment, are now scared and apprehensive to take up their full school experience.

Thank you

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

29 March 2022
Email: [redacted]
@outlook.com

Dear Sir/Madam

It is with a very heavy heart that I write to you, in hope that you will be able to help me with a situation that has not been of my doing or of my child's.

My [redacted], [redacted], attended [redacted] Primary from PI. We live in [redacted] and we chose this school due to being the closest by distance that would allow both my children to attend nursery and primary in the same location.

[redacted] graduated from [redacted] Primary in 2020 after seven successful years. [redacted] was the only child within the full P 7 year who did not secure a place at [redacted], meaning that [redacted] had to start a secondary school with no friends and very limited support. This was also during the height of the pandemic, again of which presented many challenges. During SI (at [redacted]), [redacted] struggled to fit in and as a result we made the choice to move [redacted] to [redacted] [redacted] High School.

Since starting at the beginning of S2 (current year), [redacted] has experienced bullying: vitriolic personal attacks and vile behaviour of which I have never seen before and is unsurprisingly causing great distress.

The school has attempted to deal with the bullying, however I am not satisfied that after almost a full school year it still continues. I appreciate that the school is following procedure, however I question if those procedures are fit for purpose.

The most recent episode involved death threats (regardless of whether these are empty or not; this is something that a [redacted] year old simply doesn't have the capacity to deal with), and [redacted] being told to 'go hang yourself' which is absolutely horrific!

The school today, has agreed to get the Campus Police Officer involved, however the detrimental impact to my [redacted] is now of such significance that I feel I need to take this a step further. I also feel that this action will heighten the situation and has the potential to cause further problems.

The many episodes of bullying have taken their toll on [redacted] education. [redacted] has major confidence issues now; previously she was a happy little [redacted] that loved school. At her most recent parents' evening we were told that [redacted] is withdrawn and does not perform. This is simply not how [redacted] was before. [redacted] simply does not want to be at school and this is now impacting [redacted] home life.

I am extremely concerned over [redacted] mental health. Mental Health amongst young teenagers/adults is so prevalent within the media and is a guiding principle in all aspects of education and caring for children. I am perplexed as to why this is not something that drives decisions when placing requests are being considered and decided upon.

My [redacted] still has friends who attend [redacted] High, however [redacted] has now lost 2 years of what would have been 9 years continued friendship and support. I find this very hard to accept. I fully appreciate that capacity is an issue during decisions being made for places, however I am somewhat confused as to why some decisions are taken. My placement request for [redacted] was made very clearly and succinctly around how I felt/knew that not being with [redacted] friends would impact her; but to no avail and I'm doubtful as to whether this was even a consideration.

I also have a [redacted] , [redacted] , who is due to leave primary school ([redacted]) at the end of this school year. It breaks my heart that [redacted] is now in the same situation with potentially [redacted] being the only child who will not secure a place at [redacted] High. I desperately hope that this will be reviewed, I submitted a paper copy of his placement request, however had not received acknowledgement of receipt. On calling yesterday it would appear that it was never received and as such I have now had to make a further request, of which I was told would be considered as a 'late request'.

[redacted] has problems dealing with emotions and with change. [redacted] , like [redacted] has been at [redacted] since from the very beginning of his school years; nursery and now primary. [redacted] has a very close group of friends that give [redacted] a tremendous amount of support throughout the school day, and are key in helping [redacted] navigate certain situations. [redacted] has been working closely with a support worker from [redacted] to concentrate on the areas that need the most attention around dealing with change and the transition to secondary; this transition is massive in [redacted] eyes.

[redacted] is currently working to an informal support plan, however [redacted] current teacher is in the process creating a formal GIRFEC plan for [redacted] to support [redacted] going forward. [redacted] is very academically adept and capable, however [redacted] emotional situation means that this is impeded — again, being in a strange environment with no familiar peers to support [redacted] will be massively detrimental to his wellbeing, emotional and academic development.

As parents, we are heartbroken by [redacted] current situation and with [redacted] pending placement request. To say that we feel helpless is an understatement.

My letter is plea for help. Pure and simple. I intend to share this letter with various bodies across both the council, parliamentary representatives and educational services.

I truly hope that you are able to help both my children. I feel that my [redacted] has been failed and I fear that this will also be the same for my [redacted] , and I am concerned at the long term effects for both of them.

I would be very willing and happy to discuss this further if this attains the necessary traction in my

Yours faithfully

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Apr 3, 2022 at 4:12 PM
Subject: FAO [redacted]v, [redacted] [redacted], [redacted] [redacted]
To: <[redacted]. [redacted]@ [redacted].gov.uk>, <[redacted].
[redacted].MSP@parliament.scot>, <[redacted]. [redacted].cllr@[redacted].gov.uk>

Dear all,
this is reference [redacted] [redacted]being unable to return to school for [redacted]year.
Firstly, [redacted], thank you for all you have done for [redacted]and the school over the years. It is appreciated not only by myself but [redacted]also.
You will really be missed.

[redacted], as much as you keep repeatedly denying it, [redacted]is being [redacted]out of school. By [redacted]and [redacted].
I also do not appreciate [redacted]protected time with [redacted]being interrupted so you can tell [redacted]that leaving is the best thing for [redacted].
[redacted]was also told that some members of [redacted]friend group would be having the same "you can't stay on" conversation yet [redacted]is the only one to have been spoken to.
The incidents that justified your decision to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]year, have all been cleared up, showing that [redacted]was not [redacted]but his [redacted] [redacted]and [redacted]with certain people has led to these accusations. Things that [redacted]has been involved in before,[redacted]has been punished for, yet these are being brought up as reason [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]back.
[redacted]has been very [redacted], [redacted] [redacted]and the last thing[redacted]needs is to be [redacted] [redacted]of the [redacted]. This whole situation has been a shock to him.
[redacted]has [redacted]a lot of [redacted]over the last [redacted] months and it seems that [redacted]has lost his focus. However, [redacted]has only been [redacted] [redacted]if [redacted]is [redacted], remembering, after Half term, [redacted]had a [redacted] injury and then [redacted]- [redacted].
[redacted]was banned from [redacted]along with [redacted] [redacted]. It was cleared up that [redacted]or this [redacted] [redacted]did not make the [redacted] [redacted]. The other pupil was allowed [redacted]to [redacted]but not [redacted].
Some of the teachers in your school do bare a grudge and also like to push the childrens' buttons to get a reaction...v [redacted] ([redacted]) for example.
[redacted], you have made it understandably clear that you will always take the [redacted]side in matters but maybe it would help if you are not so blinkered and perhaps didn't tell the pupils these things.

I do not wish to attend yet another meeting with yourselves. It seems that one thing is said to us at the meeting but other things amongst your team and to [redacted]. [redacted], the [redacted] [redacted] **old child**, wishes to do [redacted] [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted]AND THE [redacted]COURSE[redacted]HAS APPLIED FOR.

I have been told the classes are full. I am sure you will provide proof of this if requested.

I have been told that [redacted]of [redacted]do not want [redacted]back. Again, I'm sure proof and an explanation will be provided if requested.

We have all of [redacted]school reports and letters. It appears that we are told one thing but you say something different to each other as this is a contradiction to his reports.

[redacted] [redacted]is [redacted] on the league table.

This cannot be blamed on the pupils but on bad leadership. I think some people get away with this due to their connections but it is not fair on the children.

The school needs discipline and it needs to be enforced. Isolation...why would you isolate a child for a day but not give them anything to study?

Uniform...no uniform, no school...simple.

Vapes/smoking/drugs.....ban them. Police for the latter.

When [redacted]was [redacted] of [redacted], we [redacted] [redacted]him and [redacted]was [redacted]. For your information.

[redacted]dramatization of [redacted]behaviour by using language such as [redacted]and [redacted]and deciding the outcome of the childrens' reporter before they had even read the reports has not helped the situation.

Teachers [redacted] [redacted]at a [redacted] [redacted]to tell the [redacted]that they think the child is a [redacted] [redacted]due to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] (that [redacted]received [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]) is really out of order.

A [redacted]in [redacted], bullied because of [redacted][redacted]so badly that [redacted][redacted] [redacted]in [redacted]through [redacted]. The school spoke to the bullies who then attacked the girl. The school's advice was that [redacted]should change [redacted][redacted]. This child is lucky to be alive.

Children having inappropriate underage sexual contact in the boys' toilets. When the [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]this and [redacted]it they were [redacted]of [redacted] [redacted].

Girls being sexually assaulted and the alleged perpetrator is given more protection than the girls..need I go on? There are tens of stories like this.

2 years of Covid-19. During isolation, the school should have taught every lesson by zoom instead of giving the work they did. No excuse for that.

I have [redacted] options in dealing with this situation. I hope I have conveyed my feelings on this matter. I expect [redacted]to do at least [redacted]and [redacted]. I also do not expect [redacted]to be put in a corner and pushed to make decisions without [redacted]having the opportunity to discuss it with us.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted] [redacted]

[redacted],

Your Reference: [redacted],
[redacted] @hotmail.com

I was wondering if you could give me help or advice my [redacted] [redacted] has been getting bullied at school since August 2021 it's got to the stage [redacted] comes home with [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] etc, I've had several meetings with head teacher, guidance, I've contacted education through [redacted] [redacted], I've had police involved yet I have been told it would be resolved but why is it still happening if that's the case? I've got every photo of [redacted] [redacted] injuries I've got every childs name who's done what, this is [redacted] and it's still happening while the police are investigating incidents that's all ready happened. Mean while my [redacted] is missing education, as he doesnt come to any harm at home so why should he at school. I've tried getting help of so many people but yet it's still happening every time hes back in at school. A would appreciate it if a could get advice my contact number is [redacted]. Thank

Your Reference: Mr [redacted],
[redacted] @icloud.com

I've been searching for answers about a case involving my [redacted] which continues to make me wonder about the conclusion that the CPU conducted a case against my [redacted] which is subject to a police complaint. I'll be as brief as I can in my description of events. 1. We report to police after overwhelming evidence of a potential bullying surrounding a potential [redacted] [redacted] on my [redacted]. [redacted] life APPARENTLY was threatened and [redacted] was assaulted and threatened not to involve the police. [redacted] is still bullied during the investigation. Then the CPU concluded the investigation by saying my [redacted] is lucky she isn't being charged with WASTING police time as she [redacted] messages to herself!!!!!! [redacted] [redacted] years of age. The woman officer called her "[redacted]" and referred to her in a conversation with social services as "one to be watched". The school did nothing. My MSP is happy with the police conclusion. My councillor thinks it's a serious police matter and my [redacted] should get a lawyer. The police have simply left my [redacted] as the criminal. The evidence something has happened seems overwhelming to me but this doesn't seem to align with the directives outlined in the child rights. I actually claim this verged on a crime against my [redacted] by the CHILD PROTECTION UNIT. I was recently [redacted]. I [redacted] [redacted] to [redacted] at [redacted] of the [redacted] members of the [redacted] of [redacted] from [redacted] [redacted] after an [redacted] where I [redacted] my [redacted] but they gave false statements and didn't include the words which would incriminate them in my daughters case. In [redacted] their [redacted] expressed how [redacted] they had become and the judge spoke about [redacted] when [redacted] a [redacted] on me. I haven't the strength to challenge or [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. At no point are the [redacted] [redacted] developing within [redacted] [redacted] concerning [redacted] [redacted] has been put to the parents of [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. It's an allegation of [redacted], [redacted] [redacted] and potentially a [redacted] [redacted] with evidence on her phone using [redacted] whom she can identify. The [redacted] simply explained [redacted] is the [redacted] without showing us any evidence. Fair conclusion?? This is still the conclusion?? She has received no further contact and I've been left FURIOUS with the action and support by agencies designed to help children. So I give to you my child hasn't experienced anything near your description of her rights and she may have had them breached. I'll copy in the people I complained to including [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] to here your thoughts on this particular case which without digging into the poor investigation it's the conclusion which seems like my [redacted] is "left as a [redacted] after speaking out during a classroom bullying session regarding silencing her about a potential [redacted] [redacted] after being [redacted]". Then the CPU done the exact same thing?? My name is [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Thanks in advance for any consideration you give for my daughters mental health rights and those of a child reporting a [redacted] crime against [redacted] which I complained about the fact [redacted] had to do it alone in front of laptops and microphones and my input was not permitted

From: [redacted] <[redacted] @hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 12 May 2022 09:23
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Feedback

AO [redacted] [redacted]

Hello,

I wanted to write this email for a situation that I would like to be discussed or dealt with by the parliament of local mp.

I have been a support of the SNP for over 15 years now and will always have my support.

Here's the issue, my [redacted] went to a school in [redacted] and she is experiencing bullying at the moment now I know there is going to be some bullying from time to time we have all been there but this went back with the same family to nursery.

She is currently in [redacted] and the abuse is getting really bad, [redacted] is now hitting, calling her names, calling [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] names to my daughter and she is just feeling lost atm. I have always distilled in her to be respectful and kind to others but this is just terrible. I have been to the school 4/5 times and they keep saying going to do something or put in play for the bullies journey to learn etc. And nothing comes from it I was back in yesterday and have to go today

It seems that the school is scared of the family or the [redacted] (he has [redacted]) I have [redacted] with and supported many people with [redacted].

Now the school want to do a care plan for my [redacted] as she's coming home upset.

The problem I have with this is I am trying to raise a strong, independent and smart [redacted] in 2022, and we all know No means No but is this going to mean that she will be taught No means Okay.

It is if my [redacted] voice is not being heard and it's not to be heard to protect the school from dealing with them. [redacted] is a young [redacted] that I have taught [redacted] opinion matters as it should be sure you understand this as well.

I would like to be discussed, [redacted] year old being told to deal with this as "going through hard times makes you stronger"

Sorry for this email... I was unsure who to send this to.

Thanks for any feedback or support

Keep up the good work

[redacted] [redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted] @yahoo.co.uk>

Sent: 29 August 2022 08:19

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

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

Subject: Bullying

Good morning,

I hope you don't mind me emailing, I'm just looking for guidance or someone that could help.

My [redacted] has went into [redacted] [redacted] year at [redacted] High School, [redacted], throughout [redacted] first year [redacted] was bullied which the school and police where aware of but nothing was really done.

[redacted] went back last week and was brutally assaulted after school (I have attached the video)

[redacted] was standing alone waiting for me to pick v up and was attacked.

The police have charged the [redacted], but have told me the youth panel will probably just defer [redacted].

The school gave one of them 5 days suspension from school, which ends tomorrow.

Therefore I'm left is a position where my [redacted] actually wants an education but is far too frightened to go back to school, what do i do? I don't see my [redacted] should be punished and have to move, I have [redacted] younger [redacted] that will attend this school.

I've had quick a few messages saying this [redacted] has bullied their kids too etc. Therefore can you tell me why [redacted] can't be moved school so all the kids feel safe?

I have contacted [redacted] [redacted], head of education in [redacted] [redacted], twice, but haven't had any direct contact back.

I just don't know what to do anymore, I'm left in a position where my child is too scared to go back to school.

Thanks

[redacted] [redacted]

[redacted]

[attachment redacted under section 38(1)(b) (personal information)]

From: [redacted] [redacted] <susieruss@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 26 August 2022 11:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; [redacted].
[redacted] @[redacted].gov.uk
Subject: [redacted] primary school - unacceptable levels of classroom violence

Morning Ms Sommerville,

I am contacting you namely as a heartbroken and deeply concerned mother but also as an educated health professional trained in child protection issues who frequently witnesses the tragic results when violence escalates.

My [redacted] class (current primary [redacted]) since nursery have been subject to violent assaults and class disruption on a daily basis. As time progresses the levels of violence and the threat to our children has continued to escalate with concerns being dismissed. In [redacted] for example they were threatened [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] and td they were going to be [redacted] until their [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. As parents we were not informed of the incident by the school. When I broached the subject it was dismissed as a non event as the [redacted] wasn't [redacted]!

I have personally as an [redacted] [redacted] held the hand of an [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] who [redacted] to [redacted] in front of me from a [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. There is nothing to be dismissive about knife crime or the threat of it. No support was given to the other children post event.

I have worked with and given government addresses for your very successful navigator team and am very aware of the effects of violence in childhood. Children witnessing violence in childhood are more likely to have physical health issues (my [redacted] has had to seek gp attention), mental health issues (several of the class are suffering anxiety symptoms) and are likely to enter into a violent lifestyle themselves.

My [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] up in a [redacted] [redacted]. I did not do all I could to protect [redacted], I have made every effort to provide a warm loving home violence and fear free for my [redacted] [redacted] yet in the one place a child should feel safe (and I have zero control over) [redacted] is NOT safe. When I [redacted] to do this for my [redacted] when my [redacted] tried to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] told me they would [redacted] my one reason for [redacted] (my [redacted]) in order to protect [redacted]. Now your education system is subjecting my child to fear, witnessing peers being assaulted daily, and it would seem that is OK. Our children we have been told are expendable, they can be used as punch bags as often as necessary (locked in a classroom and , punched furniture thrown at them last week alone) and it is only when a child assaults a teacher it is acceptable to exclude.

When I raised concerns I was advised I could my children to an alternative school.

I have asked verbally several times under the freedom of information act to have every (not just those pertaining to the individual I have concerns about) act of

violence recorded on [redacted] along with the short and long term goals and if these have been met. I hope you will be able to shed some light on this for me and perhaps advise how we raise a formal complaint . Several of the parents are at breaking point myself included.

I understand every child is entitled to an education. However mine and the other [redacted] children in her class are entitled to one without fear. Not only is [redacted] having valuable education time stolen from her but also her childhood and I feel lost angry and heartbroken for her and her peers. I realise I am not the only parent feeling this way and having spoken to others we are reaching the point of seeking legal counsel with regards how it is being handled .

I really hope to have the chance to have a conversation with you and perhaps for my daughter to have her small but important voice to be heard.

My contact number is [redacted] should you wish to call me
Thank you in anticipation
[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: 27 August 2022 13:17
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Violence at [redacted] High School

Dear Ms Sturgeon

I am writing to you with deep concern regarding the violence I have seen at my [redacted] school this week. My [redacted] started in [redacted] last week at [redacted] High School in [redacted]. I have also written to Ms Somerville, the Education Secretary for Scotland and James Cleverly in England.

My [redacted] came home this week and showed her [redacted] the attached video which she did not film, it is apparently doing the rounds on social media. It is shocking viewing but please watch it.

We want you to be aware of the violence happening in schools at the moment and feel children should be suitably punished for this behaviour. Without being punished they will think it's ok to carry out such heinous crimes, and this is what these acts are, crimes.

I personally feel these children should be expelled or at the very least suspended from [redacted] High School, those carrying out the physical acts and those filming and/or watching it. However, schools seem to be extremely restricted in dealing with these types of children and unable to serve the correct punishment they deserve. Therefore it seems these children feel empowered to do such things and able to get away with violence of this kind.

It seems violence in schools is increasing and it needs to be dealt with now before more children are injured or killed. Think about how you would feel if you saw this physical violence happening to your own child or relative?

I hope you understand my concerns and seriously consider what can be done in schools to avoid this type of violence happening. I abhor bullying and feel very frustrated at the lack of power teachers have to tackle it.

I know you must be extremely busy but I would really appreciate acknowledgment of my email and possibly your thoughts on this situation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]

[attachment redacted under section 38(1)(b) (personal information)]

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @gmail.com>
Sent: 23 August 2022 19:21
To: Somerville S (Shirley-Anne), MSP <Shirley-Anne.Somerville.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Violence

Hello

My name is [redacted] [redacted], my [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] is in [redacted] at [redacted] [redacted] the v in [redacted]. [redacted] has now been [redacted] [redacted] times at school, [redacted] injuries include a [redacted] [redacted] [redacted].

I have now had no choice but to remove [redacted] for [redacted] own safety.

Can you advise what my best course of action is?

Kind regards

[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @gmail.com>
Sent: 14 November 2022 08:05
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Bullying [redacted] high school

Good morning I am writing in regards to not only the severe bullying at [redacted] high school but also in plea on getting help for the change on the school doing something about it even out of school grounds. My [redacted] year old [redacted] is currently a [redacted] year pupil at this school I had contacted school previously about a pupil making threats etc but nothing had been done a few weeks later my [redacted] started getting hassle from another pupil all [redacted] [redacted] at this school. On the [redacted] of [redacted] my [redacted] was attacked after school with a [redacted] [redacted] which had been [redacted] about [redacted] [redacted] the [redacted] by one of the pupils as it was after school and away from school grounds they won't do anything in regards to these pupils which are still in school. I now have a child who loved school and was doing so well who is now scared to go so even to the point she is even scared to attend a meeting with myself and [redacted] [redacted]. I am aware of alot of bullying at [redacted] before my [redacted] attack and there's been more since aswell. This is a police matter due to the severity and intention of serious harm or worse towards her and I also have pictures of my [redacted] head. I hope there is something you can do to help myself and my child and get her back into education without the fear and worry.

Yours sincerely
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

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

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]@icloud.com>

Sent: 11 November 2022 11:09

To: SG Complaints <SGComplaints@gov.scot>

Subject: Bullying

To Whom it may concern

I am writing to you to seek help and advice regarding abusive bullying going on for [redacted] years, affecting my [redacted] in [redacted] Primary School, [redacted] [redacted], [redacted] [redacted], [redacted].

I am writing to you as I followed all the steps in the protocol, which are to contact the School in the first instance, followed by contacting Educational Board, [redacted] Council, Citizen Advice, all those institutions redirected me back to school, also Police in several occasions who visited my home spoke to my [redacted] and took [redacted] statement but advised us that they can't do anything as he is under prosecution age, we spoke with parents of this boy but there was no reaction except attacking us. I have done everything I could think of and contacted everyone I could and there is still no improvement.

It started in [redacted] when my [redacted] started School. This pupil started small forms of bullying, verbal and physical. School was contacting us every time on our request, and they were reassuring us that they are doing what they can. We were told on several occasions 'boys will be boys' and we were trying to be understanding. Unfortunately this kind of behaviour continued through [redacted] and [redacted] more frequently, it got more violent, emotional, physical, like kicking, pushing, strangling, targeting stomach, head and privates, calling names including ones with sexual ground.

Everything continued through [redacted] adding threatening behaviour, like pupil would say [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] to [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. Physical abuse severely intensified and became a regular occurrence. My [redacted] was kicked in [redacted] on several occasions, punched in [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], he was black and blue all the time, he would get grabbed by [redacted] and pushed against a wall, couldn't breathe and defend himself.

Now we are [redacted] [redacted] into this year period and there is continuity of all above behaviours.

Over all those years we kept contacting the School who were reassuring us they are doing all they can but they have to follow the protocol as the boy in question is from a [redacted] family, and it is classified as [redacted] [redacted].

We have contacted all the above institutions to be told that we need to contact the school, but unfortunately their answer is that they need to follow the protocol. And we understand that but it came to the point this is not enough.

We need help as the system is highly protecting the [redacted] and failing to protect [redacted] v. I was told that basically until my [redacted] ends up in hospital, they cannot do much about it. This is affecting my [redacted] physically and mentally, [redacted] suffers from strong anxiety and is missing School because [redacted] is too scared to attend.

I would like you to tell me why the system is so protective towards abusers, and why this is allowed to be happening to my [redacted] for the last [redacted] years.

I do understand all children have a right to attend mainstream school but taking under consideration everything I enclosed above I would like to ask what are the options to keep my son safe .

Could you advise me who I should contact next to get an appropriate response and intervention as quite frankly I do not trust system at all to provide a safe environment for my child while in school . My [redacted] is too scared to go to school So am I which will affect his education long term. Thank you for your time and looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[redacted] [redacted]

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

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@yahoo.co.uk>

Sent: 01 November 2022 23:14

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: Abuse of teachers in schools

Dear First Minister,

I find having to write this rather disturbing. My career was in Education where I spent almost [redacted] years in the [redacted] school classroom and the remainder working for the [redacted] [redacted]. I became involved in "Guidance" at the inception of the post and continued in this mode as a member of Senior Management. In all these years, working with [redacted] [redacted] and with the [redacted] [redacted], I was never subjected to abuse from a pupil although a few cases came to my attention where abuse was directed towards a member of staff. I spent a great deal of time working with staff across several schools on behaviour management and developing ways of dealing with pupils who exhibit behavioural difficulties, and much has been written and produced on this matter.

There has also been significant material produced on the rights of young people and their safety from aggression and bullying, rightly so.

Sadly however it seems to now be the case that all indiscipline in schools is placed at the door of teachers who are judged as incompetent if behavioural difficulties arise in their classrooms which the teacher judges to be out with their ability to control.

This in my view is the leading cause of the apparent inability of schools to close the attainment gap as all too often most of the teaching time is taken up in controlling unruly pupils rather than delivering the teaching.

I [redacted] [redacted] but keep in touch with colleagues and over the past several years I have learned of what is described as a serious decline in pupil behaviour particularly since the pandemic. In some secondary schools it is alleged that serious and sustained abuse from pupils is directed at teachers on a daily basis.

You will be aware that policy towards local authorities has been to reduce exclusions, rightly so. This has led of course to the Local Authorities placing the same policy on school leaders. However nothing appears to have been done to provide a meaningful alternative strategy to allow senior staff to effectively deal with systemic disruption.

Yes of course staff have been involved in behaviour management courses and staff try their hardest to contain a worsening situation but despite daily written reports of violent and abusive behaviour being submitted to senior staff and Authority staff, nothing improves and the daily abuse directed at staff from pupils continues.

You will be aware of course of the potential strike action at a school in Aberdeen over this very matter. I fear it will not be long before other schools take a similar course if nothing is seen to be done to protect teaching staff from abuse and violence from pupils as is their right, while of course respecting the now well established rights of pupils.

An independent Government survey of the current situation in schools would go a long way to identify the truth of the matter and hopefully lead to a better learning and teaching environment in our schools which is what the majority of our pupils want to allow them to succeed and not held back by the significant disruptive minority.

Respectfully Yours

[redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
Sent from my iPad

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@btinternet.com>
Sent: 29 October 2022 23:38
To: Somerville S (Shirley-Anne), MSP <Shirley-Anne.Somerville.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Violence in schools

Hi

I listened with interest to the Parliamentary questions around Education. One that struck a personal chord with me, was regarding violence and how you stated 'there is no place and no excuse for an attack, neither physical nor verbal on a teacher or a member of support staff'.

I would like to discuss this matter further with yourself please?

I look forward to your response.

[redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @gmail.com>
Sent: 26 October 2022 20:57
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: UGENT HELP!

AO – [redacted] [redacted]

whom it may concern,

I am writing as a distressed and concerned parent with the hope that you can provide me with some assistance in helping me get my son [redacted] [redacted] moved school.

He's currently attending [redacted]. [redacted] Secondary School, [redacted]. The past couple of years have been a constant torrent of abuse and bullying. Several physical altercations, mostly takes place in the form of mental bullying and abuse.

We as parents have interacted with the school throughout his young education career, they have tried to put safety procedures in place so my son feels safe, like [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] so [redacted] doesn't run into the bullies in between travelling to class.

[redacted] is now in his [redacted] year and unfortunately no matter what we do, the bullying continues.

To the extent that my [redacted] has been thinking of [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] as [redacted] sees [redacted] as worthless and what's the point in [redacted] when you have no peers who like you.

As I'm sure you will agree this is devastating news to hear for any parent and to discover [redacted] had been googling [redacted] [redacted] to [redacted] was terrifying.

We have had an emergency meeting with the CAHMS [redacted] team and [redacted] is currently on a [redacted] waiting list to be assigned a [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. While we are waiting I have contacted the centre of therapy for [redacted] to see someone privately.

At this point in time I feel the only option we have left, so this stops affecting his educational career is to remove [redacted] from [redacted] [redacted] as quickly as possible. This has affected his learning so much already with days [redacted] missed because [redacted] been so low/scared. I really fear how this will affect [redacted] results, but I'm willing to get him extra tutors if I can just get [redacted] moved to a school [redacted] feels safe.

I myself attended [redacted] High School and know some of the teachers that helped me in my education are still teaching there at present. This alone gives me hope that a move to [redacted] would be a much safer place for my [redacted].

Also both his [redacted] live in [redacted] and have agreed he [redacted] [redacted] there if need be to ensure him access to the school. [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] works at the [redacted] in the [redacted] and as parents would feel a sense of relief knowing [redacted] had someone close by.

As a family we are at our wits end, and the constant persuading your child to go somewhere that feels unsafe is mentally draining as a parent. Currently were collecting [redacted] every [redacted] so [redacted] has minimum unsupervised contact with the people who are bullying [redacted]. [redacted] is still subjected to abuse in the classroom everyday though. My [redacted] is a shadow of [redacted] and it is breaking my heart.

Any assistance you could provide us would be most grateful and thank you for reading this.

Yours sincerely

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] –
[redacted] mum

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @hotmail.com>
Sent: 09 September 2022 16:16
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: [redacted] Primary School - Bullying and violence

Good Afternoon Ms Somerville,

I hope this finds you well.

I was hoping to be able to be able raise a serious concern I have with the policies and procedures of [redacted] Primary School in [redacted] in particular regarding bullying and violence in the school.

My son [redacted] is a primary [redacted] at [redacted] and through the past 6-12 months there has been a drastic increase in the level of bullying and violence within the school grounds, not only to [redacted] but across the seniors in the school.

I have numerous examples but without speaking for other parents I would like to recount my own experience if you will indulge me.

Late last term (around the end of [redacted]) [redacted] was knocked unconscious by another primary [redacted] pupil due to what can only be described as an unprovoked assault.

During the morning break [redacted] was dragged into the toilets by [redacted] [redacted], threw to the ground and one kicked him in the chest so hard [redacted] passed out. The school contacted us to say there was an incident and we should take [redacted] to hospital as he had lost consciousness - the doctor at [redacted] hospital was the one who told us the kick was responsible for him passing out and [redacted] was to avoid any sport for 3 weeks.

This was reported back to the school - we were told that the head teacher had done a "thorough Investigaton" and the incident was dealt with appropriately as far as he was concerned. However,... When the head teacher relayed the story from this "investigation" it was apparent he believed it was caused by play fighting and was an accident and there was no "intent" from the other pupil. We however had heard conflicting stories from other pupils and there parents who contacted us to check [redacted] was ok, what became apparent was that this wasn't play fighting and was an attack.

The school admitted they were wrong and spoke to the [redacted] involved but believed that a restorative conversation was the appropriate response as per government policy, however when I sought guidance from the police they said nothing could be done as its within school grounds but if that incident had taken place outside of school it wouldn't have been left "at a chat". It wasn't finished there and one of the [redacted] involved then attacked another pupil only 2 days later and then attacked [redacted] again before the end of the week. On both occasions said child had to be physically removed from the playground by school staff.

On top of this on the same day, the school then sent out a letter to the parents about the school trip away to [redacted] asking parents if they can take their children away - good timing after this event taking place.

I wasn't satisfied with the outcome at all - how can it be acceptable that one child who has done nothing wrong has to miss [redacted] favourite activities (Sport) for a period of time and spend break times on his own not being able to join in while [redacted] [redacted] gets to carry on as if nothing happens.

I raised this complaint to [redacted] [redacted] education who promised to address the matter - it was raised as a level 2 complaint and I was told new measures would be introduced for the start of term in August.

You may ask why I am emailing about this now...

Well since the start of the new term I have heard nothing from [redacted] [redacted] council despite being promised otherwise and to make matters worse serious incidents continue to happen at the school with [redacted] also being attacked again just [redacted] [redacted] ago.

The final straw for me was today - when waiting at the school gates a [redacted] came out and told her [redacted] that she had been strangled and headbutted by a [redacted] in her class. I am sure the school will have had a chat with the [redacted] parents but the [redacted] told her dad that nothing happened and [redacted] got away with it while she had to sit at the office and hold an ice pack to her head.

How can physical violence continue to reign unchecked at a primary school - these are [redacted] and [redacted] year old children who are being attacked and seeing that the offender in their eyes gets away with it. It's astonishing that continued attacks go unpunished and have children scared to go to school. These are just incidents where physical violence has occurred, I am aware of drastic bullying going on where children are being followed around the playground and being verbally abused but nothing happens..

I appreciate that's a long and unhappy email for you to receive but I honestly don't know what else to do but explain the situation to yourself and the shadow education secretary in the hope that something can be done. I appreciate one story shouldn't change a government's policy but I also feel you need to know where it's failing honest children who just want to learn in a safe and secure environment but that's not the case as things stand.

I would be open to discussing further in any context, sending you a copy of the complaint or anything I can do to restore not only my faith but that of my child and the others who fear going into school for what may happen.

Many Thanks
[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]@me.com>
Sent: 26 January 2023 13:27
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Pressures and violence in schools

Dear Ms Somerville

As a parent I am increasingly concerned about the levels of disruption and violence being experienced by school pupils and staff in schools. Recent incidents reported in the media and online have shocked me. But I have known for a while as a result of my own children having been at primary school for a few years now and speaking to other parents that the problem is worsening in our schools.

Undoubtedly there are a number of complex factors involved but I believe the lack of resources/staffing, funding and adequate policies to deal with these situations are at the root of the problem. As time has gone on, it has now reached boiling point. Our children and teachers are not safe from violence, they are not properly equipped to deal with it due to inadequate policies and they are under enormous pressure. It is not acceptable.

As I parent I have heard from my own children and from other parents:

- Violence in the classroom and playground
- Disruptive class members interrupting learning
- Continual bullying

Many parents I know are aware that these behaviours are happening time and time again without the real issues behind these behaviours being addressed. There appears to be no consequences. In the case of bullying, the 'victims' are the ones that are moved to another class or having to take different break times to avoid their tormentor. This has a damaging effect on the young person on the receiving end who has to make all the adjustments whilst the bully carries on in their usual manner without any consequences.

Disruption in the classroom and lack of staff to deal with large class sizes and variety of different needs also means that children and teachers alike do not have adequate support. Teachers dealing with a disruptive pupil or with those requiring additional support undoubtedly puts teachers in an impossible situation where their focus has to be on a few children at the expense of all the other children in the class. I simply do not believe that policies adequately support children who require additional support, the other children in the classroom or the staff. It's not fair on anyone.

I understand that schools work within the policies of the local authority and government. The way I see it, schools are often criticised for their response when they are in fact following policies put in place by others. For this reason I am contacting all people (yourself included) who I believe can have an influence on this crisis that we are seeing in our schools.

I therefore welcome hearing your comments on the above including steps that you can

take in your capacity to support a change which will keep our school pupils and staff safe and supported in schools.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]@btinternet.com>

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 7:50:15 PM

To: Somerville S (Shirley-Anne), MSP <[redacted].msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Pupil violence

As you will be aware, an incident of serious violence perpetrated by one pupil on a classmate within a classroom at [redacted] [redacted] was highlighted by [redacted] v MSP

in the Scottish Parliament. This follows the [redacted] of [redacted] [redacted] by [redacted] at [redacted] High School in [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] in [redacted] following repeated violent attacks on teachers by pupils.

Figures show that violent behaviour by pupils within the classroom is increasing at an alarming rate and is a clear indication that significant numbers of parents are either unwilling to instil values of self-respect and respect for others into their children or are incapable of doing so. If this trend is to be arrested, instruction in parenting should be introduced from an early age in primary schools.

If, as I expect, you will reject this suggestion, I would be grateful to know what action, if any, the Scottish Government will take to address this deplorable and worsening state of affairs.

[redacted]. [redacted]
[redacted].

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

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @outlook.com>

Sent: 12 December 2022 11:29

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

Subject: Complaint [redacted] [redacted] high

Hello I'm hoping this is the correct email address I've been given .

I wish to draw attention and raise a complaint about [redacted] [redacted] high school.

My [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] is in [redacted] year . [redacted] has been subjected to bullying in all forms , physical, emotionally , verbally .. you name it [redacted] been subjected to it . So far nothing has been done and the [redacted] have been allowed in school, one has even been [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. Just now another [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] in [redacted] year has been bullying [redacted], begging him to [redacted] [redacted], everyday [redacted] asking [redacted] why [redacted] hasn't [redacted] [redacted] self and that the world is better without [redacted]. My [redacted] has [redacted] and very vulnerable , [redacted] is [redacted] also and will only take so much before [redacted] [redacted]. I now have to keep my [redacted] off because the school can't do anything which I find disgusting, [redacted] wants an education but the place is unsafe and I'm worried sick [redacted] will eventually [redacted] [redacted]. I can't take the chance . The bully's should be the ones not in school , I need something done . Something has to be changed cause more teenagers are committing suicide cause of kids like [redacted], I don't want to loose my [redacted] cause schools aren't allowed to discipline , children like [redacted] need to be kept away from school so that children who want an education can attend

Regards

Sent from my iPhone

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

From: [redacted] @gmail.com <[redacted] @gmail.com>

Sent: 28 November 2022 21:49

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: [redacted] high school

Hello, I am writing to inform you about my school, [redacted] high school. I would like to tell you about all the good things my school has done for pupils, but there isn't many. Instead, the school is quite a bad place to learn, because most of the pupils do not know how to behave, and nothing is done about it. Slurs are used, names are called, and quite a lot of aggressive violence is used against both pupils and teachers. I am also finding it hard to learn in this environment, and I can't remember the last time I actually learned anything in this school as the lessons are ruined a lot by the pupils. It would be very appreciated if you could do something about this because the teachers obviously can't do it themselves, and that is why I am contacting you. Thank you.

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

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @yahoo.co.uk>

Sent: 27 November 2022 15:40

To: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]. [redacted] @[redacted]. [redacted].sch.uk>;

Education Scotland enquiries <Enquiries@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Cabinet

Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; [redacted] -Admin

Account <admin@[redacted]. [redacted].sch.uk>

Subject: Formal Complaint

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this email as my wish to make a formal complaint against the lack of action to deal with the constant harassment and abuse with a child in [redacted] - named [redacted].

[redacted] constant hitting, pushing, screaming into children's ears, putting children into head lock, bullying, name calling, putting a girl up against a wall and kicking a girl in private parts.

I have emailed, had phone calls and a meeting trying to explain to the school that this child is hurting kids and no action is being taken. At least 5 other parents that I know of have emailed into the school but yet nothing has happened.

I moved into the [redacted] primary catchment area as [redacted] had everything I thought a school should have. But the lack of action that the school have taken leaves me terrified that [redacted] is going to seriously hurt a child. I am beyond angry that the school have not listened to the concerns of the parents.

On our what's app [redacted] group, we have queried why the school seems to have a high level of staff turn over. Mr [redacted] the [redacted] has left. Mrs [redacted] is now leaving. The child go to Mrs [redacted] when [redacted] hurts them. They like and trust her.

I have looked at the values that the school have on their website and they certainly are not living up to these values in my opinion. We have an open day on the [redacted] [redacted] and no doubt [redacted] [redacted] the [redacted] teacher will mention these values. I think he may need to review what he will say.

I am writing to you to look into this matter. I have not taken lightly copying in the education Scotland and the minister of education. However, my child and that of [redacted] friends safety is paramount to me. The school is letting these children down. My [redacted] loves going to school but he is so fed up of the constant harassment by [redacted]. It starts even before the bell goes.

Can this please as a matter of urgency be looked into and action taken. As I have said, [redacted] is going to seriously hurt a child. Mrs [redacted] has done her best but I believe her hands are tied.

I leave this in your hands to deal with. Please bear in mind that this has gone on for months. The children are fed up of [redacted] not having to answer for [redacted] actions. It leaves the children questioning why they cannot act like [redacted].

Should you wish to speak to me my number is +[redacted] or come back to me on this email.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

> On 21 Nov 2022, at 20:49, [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

>

> Hi [redacted],

>

> I hope this email finds you well

>

> I am unsure if you are aware but there was another issue with [redacted] this morning. I believe [redacted] has added [redacted] name to your [redacted] to have a chat with you.

> I hope you'll get a chance to speak to [redacted] tomorrow. [redacted] also picked on a few other [redacted]. I believe they have added their name to the [redacted].

> [redacted] said that [redacted] came up to him and [redacted] him to the [redacted]. [redacted] said for no reason.

>

> Can you please investigate?

> Many thanks

>

> [redacted]

>

>

>

Your Reference: [redacted] [redacted],

[redacted] @gmail.com

From: [redacted] [redacted]

Sent: 23 November 2022 21:39

To: Central Enquiry Unit

Subject: Schools

Hi,I want to discuss schools,I work as a [redacted] at [redacted] High school and I am absolutely shocked at what I see on a daily basis, swearing at teachers,vandalism, toilet roll and paper towel dispensers being ripped off the wall,graffiti on all walls,corridors littered with tons of rubbish, people smoking weed,I want to bring punishment back into our schools as its completely out of control.

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]@outlook.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 8:45:22 PM

To: [redacted] [redacted] ([redacted]), MSP <[redacted].msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Concern

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.

Good evening,

I am writing regarding a matter that has caused me and my family some great distress over the past two weeks.

My [redacted] is in [redacted] of high school. [redacted] is a good pupil. [redacted] works reasonably hard, has made excellent progress through school and given myself and [redacted] [redacted] little concern through [redacted] time in school. On [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] 2023 my [redacted] was violently assaulted on [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] when [redacted] [redacted] from school. I have toiled whether to contact and raise the concerns with you however having seen a video being shared on Twitter of another violent attack on a young person in a classroom in [redacted]

I am hopeful that my concerns will be listened to, responded to and I may receive some help at this moment in time of what to tell my [redacted] based on the information being shared with me.

My [redacted] was violently attacked on a [redacted] [redacted] on [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] 2023. The young person not only [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] with the [redacted] [redacted] was [redacted] but [redacted] removed [redacted] [redacted] to attack my [redacted] with. I can only presume this was to cause more damage that using [redacted] [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted]. It was a [redacted] [redacted] with no [redacted] on the [redacted] and no cctv. However I know the assault was violent due to kids [redacted] the [redacted] and [redacted] this on [redacted] [redacted]. I have friends who [redacted] the [redacted] and it was suggested to me due to how [redacted] the attack was I should [redacted] [redacted] the [redacted]. I also seen the damage to my [redacted] [redacted].

The young person that attacked my [redacted] not only physically and violently attacked him [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] however moments before that [redacted] hit [redacted] with a [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] removed from the school and had [redacted] with [redacted] prior to getting [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. When [redacted] returned the [redacted] to [redacted] by [redacted] it back [redacted] approached [redacted] and assaulted [redacted] leaving [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted].

I have raised concerns with the police and the school. I am not confident that either

have addressed the seriousness of this attack. My [redacted] and his [redacted] shared that the young person that attacked my [redacted] was involved in a [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] days after they attacked [redacted]. My [redacted] and [redacted] friends also shared that the young person has been involved in a number of serious altercations with young people across the school and that my [redacted] is just unfortunately one victim in a long line of victims. It is believed by my [redacted] she moved from another school midterm due to altercations in the previous school.

On speaking with the police about my concerns I felt I was somewhat discouraged from asking for this to be dealt with as a police matter. It has been suggested that because my [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] to [redacted] (which unfortunately burst open), this was an excuse for [redacted] to attack my [redacted]. I am failing to see how violent outbursts can be justified particularly given the seriousness of this one. If the young person had caught my [redacted] [redacted] and not his [redacted], my [redacted] could have [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] in that [redacted] or potentially worse injuries had [redacted] hit his [redacted] any harder.

When I explained that I teach my kids as I have been taught eg by when unlawful things happen, you seek the police hence why I have sought their support. It was explained to me that I could pursue charges against the young person for the attack and these would likely be [redacted] with [redacted] to [redacted] and [redacted] of a [redacted] as [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] to attack him with. This seemed reasonable. However, I was then informed that the police would be looking to [redacted] my [redacted] with [redacted] for [redacted] the [redacted]. I had to ask whether this was genuinely how this would be dealt with given how absolutely ridiculous and alarming it sounded. I queried the logic in what was shared given the [redacted] belonged to the person that violently assaulted [redacted], was brought on the bus by the person that violently assaulted [redacted] and thrown at him by the person that violently assaulted [redacted]. We were shut down in our queries and told this was what would happen.

When we asked would the other young person presumably receive [redacted] [redacted] charges for [redacted] the [redacted] at my [redacted], it was stated no only [redacted]. They would not receive a charge for initially [redacted] the [redacted] at my [redacted].

I'm currently trying to support my [redacted] through the trauma this has caused [redacted]. I'm trying to inform him that in civilised society no one should be subjected to physical attacks like he endured. I am trying to ensure that he knows that he should seek the police when physically attacked as it is unlawful. What he suffered was actual bodily harm; There was an attempt by the perpetrator to cause serious injury to my [redacted]. I am struggling to do so given it is being suggested that my son, the victim in this would be [redacted].

What would be the advise to an adult in this situation? I presume a physical attack is not ok? This is what I am trying to tell my [redacted].

When I queried if my [redacted] saw a [redacted] on the floor and [redacted] it over to [redacted] it to the owner is that an [redacted]. The answer was yes. Again you can

imagine how horrified we are as parents to be told that. I would have presumed pressures on public sector organisations would ensure there is some sort of rational approach to these incidents.

I am currently trying to teach my [redacted] that things like this should be dealt with by the appropriate bodies and justice will prevail. How can I preach this at the moment in such a flawed system? If this were an adult that had been violently attacked on a [redacted] physically and with a [redacted] “[redacted]” prior to this, would the victim be told had they not returned the [redacted] they would not have been attacked? If it went to court would [redacted] [redacted] be prosecuted?

I would be happy to attend a consultation if possible to discuss this further. We have seen the videos shared online this week from a school in [redacted]. Whilst we do not agree with the images and schools being shared worldwide with nicola sturgeon and others being tagged in these posts, we do sympathise that this is likely a family in turmoil like ours having seen their child left so unsafe and unsupported following the incident. We simply seek support for our [redacted] who has a right to feel safe not only at home but also in school and on a school bus where he will be in an environment that he can reach his full potential. We are not convinced this is currently the case.

Any support, guidance and help on this matter is much appreciated.

Thanks in anticipation,

[redacted] [redacted]
.....
.....

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

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]@icloud.com>

Sent: 02 April 2023 20:41

To: Gilruth J (Jenny), MSP <Jenny.Gilruth.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Re education

As you are newly appointed as minister of education I would like to know how you are intending to approach the behaviours in our schools? This is becoming quite a concern and the behaviours abhorrent.

How can we expect our teachers to carry out their duties within the class when so many pupils are behaving in such a disrespectful and disruptive manner?

This really does need addressing.

I am concerned that many teenagers are unable to read and write despite having been within the Scottish Education System since the age of 5 years old.

Once upon a time we had one of the best education systems in the world. Take a step back and look at it now!

The problem within schools are being blamed on the teachers for not making their lessons engaging enough. How can a teacher attempt to give lessons to a class of thirty something pupils when there are many within the group who are just happy to turn up to the lesson to cause problems either by shouting, swearing, throwing drinks, rubbish, paper, books , chairs and furniture about a class. A teacher is a professional, they are not there to break up fights and yes there will always be unruly pupils but not to the degree we are seeing presently. Management do not support the class teachers. As far as they are concerned the teacher just has to get on with the job. it's the teachers fault if pupils are demonstrating bad behaviour! Pupils will shout, scream and swear at teachers and the teacher has to stand and endure this with little consequence to the perpetrators. Children's right have gone from one extreme to the other. This really is dire.

If this behaviour is allowed to continue within our schools we are going to raise a future generation of delinquents. Something has to change.

I would be interested to know your ideas/plans to address these unresolved problems within the classroom and the support that teachers deserve?

Regards

[redacted] [redacted]

Sent from my iPad

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @gmail.com>

Sent: 04 April 2023 22:35

Subject: Complaint [redacted] High School

[redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

03/04/2023

To Whom It May Concern,

On [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] 2023, during the Easter Holidays, at around 14[redacted] 00 I received a visit from [redacted] High School's [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] at my home address.

He duly informed me that my [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] was subject of an [redacted] into [redacted] [redacted] on a [redacted] – not an [redacted] [redacted]. The teacher is [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] ([redacted] teacher) of [redacted] High School, [redacted] [redacted].

This incident took place on [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] 2023, [redacted] days prior to [redacted] [redacted] arrival. I was aware of the situation as [redacted] had informed me on the day and the school informed me via telephone on [redacted] [redacted] March. [redacted] attended school for half [redacted] [redacted] on the [redacted] of [redacted] [redacted] but I collected him to [redacted] the [redacted] of his mental wellbeing.

From the telephone call, it was clear to me that [redacted] version of events differed to that of [redacted] [redacted]. I am not going into [redacted] version as there was apparently an internal investigation to which [redacted] was not party to. Indeed, I was unaware of the investigation or the results of the investigation. None of [redacted] witnesses were questioned in relation to such investigation who can corroborate his version of events.

However as there was an investigation, I want to have a copy of the notes and the outcome so I can understand how the school arrived at [redacted] exclusion of my [redacted].

It is also my understanding that [redacted] [redacted] is now [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] with the [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] to an [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] by [redacted] [redacted] when [redacted] to [redacted] my [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] from [redacted] [redacted].

Having heard only one side of the incident events I am surprised that [redacted] [redacted] sustained [redacted] [redacted] as indeed are some of my more expertly knowledgeable [redacted] from whom I have taken advice.

You may be aware, if not you are now, that [redacted] was referred to [redacted] as [redacted] feels that in school, [redacted] is the only one to be singled out for classroom discipline. [redacted] believes [redacted] treatment is unfair and is having an effect on his education as he switches off to avoid any confrontation. [redacted] has a [redacted] [redacted] about him and often [redacted] [redacted] in such a way and I fully understand that this may be seen as [redacted] or [redacted], however despite [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is no [redacted] to [redacted] and indeed [redacted] has been brought up to respect everyone and in his own way to challenge injustices, not only for [redacted] but to others to which I am proud.

Now that that the police are involved this means [redacted] has a [redacted] of [redacted] [redacted] and at this stage I don't know if expungable and therefore what consequences it will have on his future. Your input to these questions is fundamental.

It is my belief that as there are only two people involved the police cannot take this forward as there are no witnesses that have been identified during [redacted] High

Schools investigations, yet the school have taken it forward and implemented a punishment and criminal record upon [redacted].

It is clear that the school has based the [redacted] only on [redacted] [redacted] version of events.

To re-cap: -

I want a copy of the notes on the investigation and who was in attendance.

I want to know [redacted] is safe in school and his education is not suffering due to even more 'lost days'

I want to know how the school arrived at their conclusion to [redacted] [redacted] from school.

I want to know the implications of [redacted] police record.

I want to know the exact injuries to [redacted] [redacted], [redacted] timeline of events, whether [redacted] [redacted] work the [redacted] day or not. Ideally proof that [redacted] alleged injuries were sustained and comparable with [redacted] version of events.

Finally, I want to be satisfied that [redacted] receives an education and that [redacted] grades reflect his understanding of teaching and not [redacted] being distracted as he waits to be singled out for any classroom disruptions.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted] MP <[redacted].[redacted].mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 17 April 2023 13:24
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Constituent Concerns - Violence in Schools (Case Ref: [redacted])

Dear Ms Gilruth,

Re: Violence in Schools

I am writing to you having been contacted by a constituent concerned regarding violence in schools.

My constituent has recently moved her [redacted] to a new school due to having been the victim of a violent attack during school time.

My constituent felt that the alleged perpetrators of the attack were not punished and she is concerned that Head Teachers and the local authority do not have the powers required to deal with incidents such as these.

On behalf of my constituent, I would be grateful if you could outline the policies, procedure and options available to Head Teachers and local authorities when dealing with incidents of violence in school.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my constituent's concerns. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]
MP for [redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]. [redacted] @[redacted]. [redacted].sch.uk>
Sent: 27 February 2023 09:33
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Are you really happy to lose 12% of your workforce in one sector?

Good morning, Nicola Sturgeon,

I am a teacher and have been teaching for [redacted] years. I am over [redacted] and am considering [redacted] soon.

I could talk to you about workload pressures, (it's ridiculous). I could talk to you about behaviour of pupils, (with some pupils, the language and violence they present would not be accepted in any other workplace). I could talk to you about constant changes, (no other profession has so many). I could talk to you about our strength and resilience during and after the pandemic, (not many professions put their lives at risk, and those of their families, to go to work BEFORE vaccines or had to relearn their jobs in the space of a weekend - teaching online.)

I am talking to you as an [redacted] [redacted] of the profession. Current government statistics (13 December 2022) tell us that 12% of all teachers are over 55. This means 12% of the workforce is considering when to retire. With an increasing cost of living and the need to strike for a cost-of-living pay rise, all those people will be thinking, is it worth working any longer? I know [redacted] [redacted]. Is it worth putting up with all the other teaching pressures for a society that no longer values public service?

Those of [redacted] over [redacted] pay tax. We have a wealth of experience. Do you really want to force us all into [redacted] [redacted], losing both the tax we pay and the knowledge we have?

Seriously! This cannot be a sensible move for any government faced with an ageing population and problems recruiting in all sectors.

Think again. Make a good choice. Pay us enough to make retirement seem less attractive. Pay us enough to retain all the younger teachers in the profession rather than forcing them to choose to leave or face an increasingly poor standard of living.

Public service is an important role in society. It needs to be supported properly to be effective.

Kind regards,

[redacted] [redacted]

1.

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @gmail.com>
Sent: 05 February 2023 15:58
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: Apathy and disrespect towards teachers

[attachment redacted under section 38(1)(b) (personal information)]

Dear Mrs Somerville,

I received the letter of response sent on your behalf. This is attached below for reference. However, in keeping with your lack of action in recent months, I note you didn't actually respond yourself.

If you had taken the time to read my email, which you evidently did not, you would have also read an article about a teaching award I received in [redacted]. This wasn't for work restricted to my own school or even local authority. I was recognised for being the [redacted] in [redacted] and also nominated for a UK award.

I only raise this as I find it astonishing how disinterested you appear to be in everything that is supposed to be your day job. You haven't taken the time to read the above article, but you have also done absolutely nothing positive or proactive to solve the pay dispute. It truly is galling how apathetic your approach to your role is.

This below letter states that the SNP government has a good record in education. This is one of the most inaccurate and false pieces of political spin I have ever heard. Your governments record in education is utterly abysmal. Standards are at an all time low, resources have never been more stretched, outcomes are at an all time low and in school violence has risen by nearly 50%. As someone who is very good at blaming your shortcomings on others, I'm wondering whose fault all of that is?

As we well know, and the public are now becoming increasingly aware, Education in Scotland is broken and the entire responsibility of that fault lays at yours and your colleagues door. You should be bursting a gut to settle this dispute and improve standards across the board.

Instead you continue to do absolutely nothing. As someone who previously supported your party, I will never be able to bring myself to vote SNP again.

Stop going to the media and slating the people who work over 26 hours over their contracts every week. Start doing your job and improving education. Settling the pay dispute would be a small step in the right direction.

Over to you to actually act...

Regards,

[redacted] [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @gmail.com>

Date: Sun, 29 Jan 2023, 16:46

Subject: Teacher Strikes and other things

To: <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Dear Nicola,

I would like to share my opinion on teacher strikes.

I do not agree that teachers require a pay rise. I agree that they should have the right to strike. However, I believe the argument that they need a pay rise because of conditions and inflation are weak. For me, inflation is impacting everyone, therefore why should one group benefit more than others by receiving a pay rise? I also wonder why they think a pay rise will reduce the pressure or improve the conditions they say are so difficult?? It won't. The problems will surely continue?

Wouldn't it be more sensible and actually create real change, if money was invested in support staff within the schools? More support staff and additional support for learning teachers?

Teachers from what I see are receiving a good pay for the role they are in, however I can see that the changes implemented by the Scottish government regarding inclusion and the presumption of mainstream for children with additional support needs, has created additional challenges for teachers.

This is where support should be targeted not pay increases. I'm no expert as you can probably tell, however I do represent a number of the general public and from what I see on social media many teachers too. It's not pay that needs to change, it's conditions.

I've attached a post a teacher at my daughters school put up. My daughter happens to have additional support needs and in some posts I've read, it sounds like many teachers are blaming children with additional support needs for the poor conditions they find themselves in because of the risk of violence that they face. I also don't like the implication that I read in some posts that because my daughter attends a mainstream school that the 'other' children are missing out. That's not a burden parents of children with ASN need to carry or defend.

If I had realised I could pop an email out to you (your team) this easily I would have been able to share how awful my [redacted] experience within [redacted] had been and the challenges we have faced within [redacted] council. The council doesn't care and the MSP here was little to no help. If ever revisiting policy regarding children with additional support needs and their families, you really need to reach out and hear from them. It's an awful place to be sometimes, with all the will in the world to do the best for a child with disabilities, the system is still against us. Reasonable adjustment, just doesn't cut it.

Regards,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @gmail.com>

Date: Sun, 29 Jan 2023, 16:12

Subject: Teacher Strikes

To: <richard[redacted] [redacted].mp@parliament.uk>

Dear [redacted],

I would like to share my opinion on teacher strikes.

I do not agree that teachers require a pay rise. I agree that they should have the right to strike. However, I believe they argue that they need a pay rise because of conditions and inflation. For me, inflation is impacting everyone why should one group benefit more than others by receiving a pay rise? I also wonder why they think a pay rise will reduce the pressure or improve the conditions they say are so terrible?? It won't. The problems will surely continue?

Wouldn't it be more sensible and actually help, if money was invested in support within the schools? More additional support teachers and additional support for learning staff?

Teachers from what I see are receiving a great pay for the role they are in, however I can see that the changes enforced by the Scottish government regarding inclusion and the presumption of mainstream for children with additional support needs has created an additional challenge.

This is where support should be targeted. I'm no expert as you can probably tell however I do represent a number of the general public and from what I see on social media many teachers too. It's not pay that needs to change, it's conditions.

I've attached a post a teacher at my [redacted] school put up. My [redacted] happens to have [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] and in some posts I've read, it sounds like many teachers are blaming children with [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] for the poor conditions because of the risk of violence they face.

Regards, [redacted]

[attachments redacted under section 38(1)(b) (personal information)]

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

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted] @gmail.com>

Sent: 02 December 2022 08:03

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: Scotland teachers

Good evening

I am emailing you as First Minister of Scotland to express my disappointment and frustration at your comments at FMQ and your stance on the recent financial offer for Scottish teachers.

Firstly, your comment that teachers in Scotland are paid more than the rest of the UK, whilst possibly factually correct, is not pertinent to this issue. Teachers in Scotland are highly qualified and well trained graduate professionals and, for secondary teachers, have a degree and an expertise in their specialist subject. In England, secondary teachers do not have to be degree qualified in a subject to teach it. Schools in England can also employ unqualified teachers whose salaries reflect this and so drawing any comparisons is worthless. Many schools in England are also in a dire state at present in terms of teachers leaving the profession leaving schools suffering from shortages of teaching staff. This is not a position that we want to replicate in Scotland. However, things are starting to go that way with numerous teaching jobs unfilled and repeatedly advertised. I've heard of schools with multiple vacant posts in departments unfilled as nobody suitable wants take on the role. Could teachers' working conditions, stress, regular abuse by pupils and inadequate financial rewards be to blame for this situation?

Teaching is a challenging career. All parents want their child taught by an expert-enthusiastic, committed and relevant- who will inspire their children to succeed and meet their potential. Ideally, teaching should be an inviting career choice for the best graduates who can pass on their knowledge but, unfortunately, it is becoming financially unviable for good graduates to come into teaching when they can command a much higher salary elsewhere with less working hours, more flexibility and less stress.

Secondly, you commented that the offer was "fair" and that there needed to be "fairness across the public sector". This again is untrue for a couple of reasons. The offer was not fair. It was minimally different to the previously rejected offer and was clearly unfair in that it penalised teachers with the most experience with the lowest rates of pay increase. How can it be acceptable to suggest that those who have devoted years of service should receive a smaller rise than those new to the profession? Moreover, teachers' salaries have never been linked to other council workers which is why it has a separate negotiating process. Furthermore, on the day that teachers from the EIS were striking, nurses were offered a higher deal than that put to the teachers. How is that "fair" going by your own statement? The mantra continues to be that there is no money yet money is being squandered in other areas.

I cannot support an SNP government who has shown such blatant disregard for the children of Scotland by not listening to and supporting their teachers. I am disgusted at the attitudes of those in government at present who cannot even commit to negotiations and who spent three months to come back with the same deal that was previously rejected. If the Scottish government wants the education system to return to the world leader that we once were, where pupils are nurtured, included and able to achieve to the highest standards, there needs to be a respect for our profession alongside appropriate financial recognition.

Yours disappointedly,
[redacted] [redacted],

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]@btinternet.com>
Date: 22 February 2023 at 09:00:33 GMT
To: [redacted]. [redacted].msp@parliament.scot,
Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot
Cc: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]@btinternet.com>
Subject: Impact of targeted teacher strikes

Dear [redacted] and Nicola

I'm writing to you both as the constituency MSPs for my home address and my son's school respectively.

I support the striking teachers (I'm not a teacher). As this week's strikes have been organised to make an impact in targeted constituencies, I'm letting you know about the impact on my [redacted]. I have no doubt you'll hear much more difficult stories than ours, given the amount of disadvantaged children who attend [redacted] [redacted] schools, but I think it's important that you hear about the impact on a range of children and young people.

My [redacted] is not disadvantaged in most respects - he is [redacted] [redacted], [redacted] have [redacted], and [redacted] [redacted] -[redacted] or [redacted] in [redacted].

However, [redacted] is in [redacted] ([redacted] [redacted]), which makes [redacted] part of the cohort deprived of a transition from primary to secondary in 2020. I believed at the time that this would have a profound impact on [redacted] year group (as it would on today's [redacted]) and still think this is the case. I know from my professional life how important it is that (especially, but not only, vulnerable) children and young people are fully supported through major transitions.

My [redacted] last in-person parents evening was nearly 3.5 years ago, in autumn 2019. At that time, [redacted] was described as an enthusiastic learner. [redacted] was excited about all the rituals and events associated with leaving primary school, and couldn't wait to start secondary.

[redacted] was utterly devastated when the pandemic ripped all those plans from [redacted] in March 2020.

The start of [redacted] was underwhelming for [redacted], as none of the school's usual strategies to engage new pupils were in place.

By the time the schools closed again in December 2020, my [redacted] was pretty disengaged - [redacted] usually did the work given to him, but reluctantly and hurriedly.

Between spring and autumn 2021, we had no real idea how [redacted] was doing at school, except that [redacted] found it boring. November 2021 was the one (online) parents evening [redacted] had since [redacted] started secondary - feedback was

more positive than I feared, but it was clear [redacted] was only beginning to engage in class discussions for example (over a year into secondary) - a major strength of [redacted] at primary.

Later in [redacted], we became aware of another problem in his year group (specifically some [redacted] in this case). My understanding (from staff) is that this bored, disengaged group of [redacted] [redacted] were struggling to entertain themselves and to navigate friendships, resulting in aggressive behaviour starting out as fun and resulting sometimes in injury. For a example, a peer of my [redacted] was badly assaulted in [redacted] 2022 by a group of [redacted] [redacted], and I had to take my [redacted] to A&E just a few weeks ago with a [redacted] [redacted] after he was [redacted] over by a peer in the playground.

There are some signs of improvement in maturity (e.g. my [redacted] was able to name the perpetrator this time - wouldn't have a few months ago), but the school see a delay in this area of social development for my [redacted] and [redacted] peers.

Meanwhile, my [redacted] recent report card (Dec 2022) showed a pattern of distracted and sometimes disruptive behaviour in the classroom (which must be a joy for his teachers!). Again this seems to be peers influencing each other and a delay in growing out of this. I told my [redacted] at the time that I was hoping to hear this had improved by parents evening.

Which brings me to today. [redacted] parents evening was scheduled for 23/02/2023 (tomorrow). I understand it's possible it will not be rescheduled. As I believe [redacted] parents evenings take place early in the year, I think this means my [redacted] may go more than [redacted] years without an in-person parents evening, with only one (online) event (early [redacted]) taking place between starting at [redacted] and sitting his National 5 prelims later this year. Moreover, [redacted] year group will be deciding very soon which two subjects to drop and which to take into [redacted] - my [redacted] is quite certain about [redacted] choices, but we don't know what his teachers think, and feel for young people and families who are less sure and we're relying on discussions tomorrow evening.

My [redacted] and his peers have had a raw deal due to the pandemic, and are about to hit a crucial stage in their education. I would argue that the school closures during the pandemic have had a significant impact on [redacted] motivation to engage with his learning (he's bright enough), and that [redacted] and [redacted] peers do not need further closures and missed parents evenings.

I dread to think how the above issues might impact on young people in that year group who do have other vulnerabilities.

The deep impact of these targeted strikes only illustrates to me how valuable our teachers are, and I would urge the Scottish Government and COSLA to give the teachers a decent pay offer that doesn't constitute a further reduction in real-terms pay.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted] [redacted]
([redacted] [redacted])

From: [redacted] [redacted] MSP <[redacted].[redacted].msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 17 March 2023 16:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: (Case Ref: [redacted])

Dear Shirley-Anne

I am writing to you on behalf of a number of constituents who have contacted me concerning violence in schools, and videos of such violence being shared online.

You will be aware of the recent high-profile incidents that have occurred this year, including in my constituency, and the recent Daily Record campaign on this matter. My constituents have raised concerns that girls in particular are disproportionately affected and fear that the increased engagement these types of videos receive online may encourage continued violence.

I welcome the £15 million that is being invested to enhance capacity among education authorities and schools to respond effectively to the needs of children and young people, and the further £2 million to support the delivery of prevention activity across Scotland this year. To that end, I would be grateful for further clarity and reassurances that I can share with my constituents as to what action is being taken by the Scottish Government to support schools, parents and young people to address this issue.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you soon,

Kate

[redacted] [redacted] MSP
[redacted], [redacted] and [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]. [redacted]@parliament.scot>
Sent: 14 April 2022 16:12
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: sexual violence between pupils

Good Afternoon Shirley-Anne

I would be extremely grateful if you could provide me with advice regarding the following issue.

It has been brought to my attention that there has been a number of cases in relation to [redacted] violence between pupils in [redacted] [redacted] schools in the past 6 months. The current policy within [redacted] Council, even after a [redacted] has been [redacted], appears to remain separating pupils within the existing school premises if pupils attend the same school.

Though, this presents challenges in [redacted] schools where it can be hard to have the physical space to reliably do this (or where siblings may remain in the same class as assailants as no provision is made for siblings), and in larger schools with more pupils where monitoring of individual pupils is an issue. With no provisions made for a school discipline/exclusion aspect to sexual violence between pupils, and due to protection of assailants rights to privacy, a failure to inform all staff potentially also impacting monitoring of policies to keep pupils separate within the same school setting.

I am aware that the gender based violence working group has been established to develop a national framework to prevent and respond to harmful behaviour and gender based violence in schools but the reason I am writing in the first instance is to ask what are the specific rules and regulations regarding such an incident when it does happen. What are the local government's responsibilities in this situation. – it seems that the [redacted] Council's policy is that the child that was found guilty and convicted of said violence can return back to the same school, where the victim and perhaps their siblings are. In other words, the onus is on the victim to move to a different school location if they feel they cannot remain where they are after their assailant returns.

I thank you for any assistance in this matter.

Kind regards,

[redacted] [redacted] **MSP**

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@ [redacted]-ed.org>

Sent: 25 November 2022 12:09

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot; [redacted]@ [redacted]-ed.org; [redacted]. [redacted].mp@parliament.uk

Subject: Re: [redacted]Academy Violence

Good morning Mrs Sturgeon,

We have been made aware of the recent article in the [redacted] [redacted].

In response to the article published in the [redacted] [redacted], we believe that having a meeting with the children in the school would be more beneficial to learning about the ongoing issues in the school.

We would love you to hear our side of the story and how the violence here affects us, and we think this would be beneficial to you when you try to deal with our situation.

Some of the pupils at the school have a strong opinion of what's going on and how to change it. As seniors pupil in the school I believe for you to hear it from us will help.

We believe that the articles and things being said about the school is unfair on many children who really just want to learn. It is a small select few that are the main cause of the ongoing issues. There is a dark reputation hanging over the whole school which needs to change.

It would also be a fantastic opportunity for you to visit our modern class as we were unable to visit parliament.

Kind regards

[redacted]and [redacted]

School and house captains.

From: [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>

Sent: 31 March 2023 17:14

To: Gilruth J (Jenny), MSP <Jenny.Gilruth.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: RE: [redacted] [redacted] Bullying concern, lack of action after a physical assault on my [redacted].

Dear Mrs Gilruth MSP,

I am writing to you in order to plead for your assistance regarding [redacted] [redacted] appalling response after my [redacted] was brutally attacked in school. The attack came after i pleaded with the school to protect my child for days before it. I really plead with you to intervene here and have this pupil (who is already on a part time contract because of violence and disruption) permanently expelled from the [redacted] before [redacted] seriously hurts my [redacted] or one of the several other pupils that she is threatening to assault. [redacted] is absolutely a risk to both pupils and staff.

Summary of information to date

23/02/23- i got a call from [redacted] [redacted] to collect my [redacted] as [redacted] enlisted other pupils to lure my [redacted] into a PE changing room so [redacted] could physically assault [redacted] Meanwhile having others waiting to record it and share on social media- a premeditated attack. Thankfully my [redacted] was warned by others and got away.

23/02-26/02- [redacted] made several threats to my [redacted] online that [redacted] did not care about school threats of suspension, [redacted] was going to "batter [redacted] no matter what the school do".

27/02- I make a frantic call to [redacted] and advise [redacted] about the ongoing threats and pled with [redacted] to protect my [redacted] [redacted] assures me [redacted] will speak to [redacted], even though i stressed [redacted] stated [redacted] doesn't care what the schools consequences are! I requested that the school get both [redacted] in a room for a mediation and [redacted] almost laughed before quickly responding "oh no [redacted], mediation is not something that works for [redacted]"! Also on this call I expressed my concern that [redacted] has access to and is willing to use knives and keys in order to cut herself therefore is capable of using these on my child!

03/03 i get a call from [redacted] advising my [redacted] has been attacked and was with a first aider! [redacted] fully admitted to doing it and [redacted] confirmed she was awaiting response from the head teacher [redacted] about a suspension timescale. We were advised at this meeting that the event had been recorded and shared by another pupil at [redacted] request and that [redacted] was fully admitting to the assault! Another premeditated assault. My [redacted] had completely changed [redacted] routine and journey to classes to avoid her, [redacted] hunted the school to find my [redacted] so [redacted] could attack her. My [redacted] was later sent the video that [redacted] shared with the caption "It only got me kickin [redacted] in the heed n putting [redacted] on [redacted] ars at the end fumin cause before it i ablivated [redacted] face pahaah"

06/03 call from [redacted] advising the head teacher decided a 3 day suspension is sufficient! We requested a face-to-face meeting with [redacted].

09/03 Meeting with [redacted] +[redacted] (day before 3-day suspension was due to conclude) we expressed our sincere concern about this pupil and it concluded with an agreement to meet again the following day for a progress update.

10/03 police paid us a visit for advice and conformed that indeed the school could have and should have prevented this! They immediately went to the school to discuss with [redacted]. [redacted] the head teacher of [redacted] then lied to police by saying [redacted] "slipped away from a staff members custody to assault my [redacted]" [redacted] was not being monitored 1-2-1 by any staff members when it happened, I am shocked that a head teacher is prepared to lie like this to police. Police called me back to advise school had decided to extend the 3 days to 3 weeks with a review before easter holidays.

28/03 I'm advised by another pupil that [redacted] whilst suspended is still posting online nonsense about [redacted], using [redacted] name to spread hate and lies. [redacted] has made no contact direct or indirectly with [redacted] since the attack.

31/03 [redacted] phoned to advise [redacted] would be returning to the school after the easter holidays.

At this point i advised [redacted] that i would be contacting you myself and requesting your help, i asked for another face-to-face meeting with [redacted] which has been scheduled for Monday 17/04/23.

I am asking that you please intervene here, [redacted] for some reason are protecting this dangerous and unpredictable pupil. They have said several times that "there are multiple agencies involved with [redacted]" it is now very clear to me that my [redacted] is actually being discriminated against because [redacted] does not have multi agency involvement, [redacted] doesn't cut herself to avoid facing consequences of [redacted] actions and indeed comes from a stable home. This is incredibly unfair but not only that it is putting students and staff in severe danger. [redacted] has in the past attacked others, recorded then shared in order to further embarrass the victim. [redacted] is disruptive and has cut [redacted] in class in front of other kids leaving them traumatised. [redacted] evidently has access to weapons in school, [redacted] used a key to cut [redacted] forehead and i am genuinely in fear for my [redacted] life whilst [redacted] is allowed to remain at the school.

Looking over the schools anti bullying policy, my [redacted] has been let down in almost every pledge on it. Looking at reasons for permanent exclusion in Scottish schools, [redacted] ticks almost every box, i cannot contemplate why [redacted] and [redacted] think it is acceptable to let [redacted] remain at the school, or indeed ask us to allow our [redacted] to be in a position where someone so violent has freedom to attack [redacted] again.

[redacted] is not capable of following school rules, this is proven by [redacted] record within the school repeatedly. Staff at the school have indeed on several occasions told lies in order to protect this pupil and keep [redacted] at the school leaving us with absolutely no faith in the school's ability to protect our [redacted].

Mrs Gilruth this is my [redacted]life at risk here, this is not just a shove in the playground, [redacted] attacked my [redacted] from behind, poured a can of cola in [redacted] face so [redacted] couldn't see and threw [redacted] to the floor before

kicking her in the face and head, bouncing her head off a wall and kicking her in other areas. [redacted] will go on and seriously hurt someone else, and the school are going to be partially responsible for this.

I am so saddened and disappointed by the school's response here that i am more than willing to take this further. i am hoping you will see our side here and intervene at this stage to resolve this. The police have done their job by referring [redacted] to the Early Crime prevention unit. However the school are responsible for [redacted] safety whilst [redacted] is on site, and for removing any student repeatedly causing harm to others/disrupting the education of others. It is not a question of if [redacted] attacks again, its when [redacted] attacks again. The school's response to this has given [redacted] the clear message that [redacted] can attack people with no consequences.

For the 1st time in [redacted] life, my [redacted] mental health is now a concern. We have worked incredibly hard to protect [redacted] mental health as it is extremely important to us. Now [redacted] is afraid, and anxious this only going to intensify when [redacted] returns to the school. we are very afraid for [redacted] safety and mental health. The message the school are portraying is that they will protect the assailant over the victim. We are unable to convince our [redacted] otherwise because this is indeed what is happening.

I thank you for you're assistance and look forward to hearing from you,

Kind regards,

[redacted]
tel: [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]0063@gmail.com>
Sent: 16 March 2023 20:43
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Assault on [redacted]: Monday 6th March 2023

Assault on [redacted]: Monday 6th March 2023

Just checking to ensure you have all viewed the video of my [redacted] being seriously assaulted a week past Monday.

The reason I'm checking is because not one of you has bothered to contact me. Don't you think that's a tad strange, given the seriousness of the attack on my [redacted].

Yesterday evening, my [redacted] asked [redacted] why no one was responding to my emails and he replied, because his last emails are being dealt with through the complaint process, or words to that effect.

My last email was NOT a complaint so why use that as a reason for ignoring my emails.

What are you hiding from? I'm assuming you all have the intellectual capacity to have a conversation with me and to listen to what I have to say... or, are you all in fear of being 'distressed' by listening to the truth.

Remember to watch the video and imagine it's your [redacted] or [redacted] being beaten up by two cowardly pigs.

[redacted]

[attachment redacted under section 38(1)(b) (personal information)]

From: [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>

Sent: 15 March 2023 10:34

To: Annabelle.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Good morning

I would like to raise concerns with the current system by police, local authorities (school) etc in connection with children and disabilities.

My [redacted] is [redacted] and also has adhd [redacted] finds it difficult day to day and requires support in a lot of ways.

[redacted] has faced huge issues with bullying mainly in school and although we are working with the school on tackling this there's is still a massive amount of work to be done.

Day to day [redacted] receives some sort of issues from the same groups, names this can be many ways to go out of there way to distress [redacted].
Some serious issues and some not so serious.

However the more serious issues which have had to be reported to the police I feel have failed [redacted].

Again let me explain with a few examples.

Example 1 - while [redacted]was at primary school[redacted]received threats from a parent due to issues with another child.

The parent made threats to [redacted]and myself and his [redacted].

[redacted] made comments regarding [redacted] disabilities all of which was recorded and overheard by us and school.

The police decided the outcome of this was [redacted] sobered up and was sorry so no further action to be taken.

Example 2 - [redacted] was bullied by a child which led to child being removed from school for Inappropriate behaviour

Physically as well as sexually.

The [redacted] took pictures etc and these were shared online for bullying purposes.

We reported this to the school on site police officer who advised a crime had not been committed and in his words "what do you want me to do" and no further action would be taken.

I witnessed my [redacted] call and

I believe this was a lack of interest and i left over 10 messages with the school for [redacted]to contact me and[redacted]never did.

Example 3

A child spat on [redacted] on[redacted]way to school and made comments about his disabilities

The police did deal with this but never gave an explanation of what punishment the child faced.

This was during the covid period so should have been taken more seriously..

My question is and I would like to hear what the Scottish government can do to make sure the vulnerable are protected by local authorities mainly the police so they can trust and rely on using these services in an emergency.

If these children feel failed by they system how can they reply and trust this ?

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

From: [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.com>

Sent: 16 March 2023 10:03

To: Somerville S (Shirley-Anne), MSP <Shirley-Anne.Somerville.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Educational Issue

Dear Ms Somerville.

I am emailing to hopefully gain support in an educational matter concerning my [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

My [redacted] attends [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] in [redacted] and is in [redacted]

[redacted] enjoys attending and is a respected student.

[redacted] originally attended [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] in [redacted], however, unfortunately [redacted] suffered severe bullying from almost as soon as [redacted] started.

The bullying started in Primary 3 at [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] in [redacted]. This continued on and off until [redacted] left primary school at the end of primary 7. It was then continued in high school by this same child. It turned violent at this point with [redacted] pushing and kicking my [redacted].

The bully ([redacted] [redacted]) then instructed another [redacted] to physically attack my [redacted]. This assault was captured on video including the [redacted] approaching my [redacted]. As a result, [redacted] suffered from several injuries including a chunk of [redacted] hair being ripped out.

The threats continued and we had no option but to remove [redacted] from [redacted] [redacted] [redacted], as they said they could not guarantee [redacted] safety. As far as I am aware, [redacted] (the bully from primary school and the instigator in the attack) was not punished.

[redacted] started attending [redacted] [redacted] School in December and has absolutely thrived since being removed.

A stress related skin condition (as diagnosed by [redacted] GP) had almost vanished and [redacted] mental health has improved dramatically.

Since leaving [redacted], [redacted] has continued to be followed and threatened by [redacted]. I was present during one instance at our local retail park when [redacted] me to my car.

The police were contacted regarding this matter.

[redacted] has been happy to attend [redacted] without the worry / stress of being bullied.

Unfortunately, it was brought to my attention that [redacted] has now followed my child to [redacted] and has submitted a placing request. I was contacted earlier this week to be told that [redacted] placing request had been successful.

[redacted] is devastated and has started refusing to attend school.

I cannot understand why [redacted] has been allowed to follow [redacted] to [redacted] new school and why [redacted] needs are being placed above her victims needs.

[redacted] would still be attending [redacted] if it were not for [redacted] actions. There is also another child in [redacted] at [redacted] who had been moved from [redacted] due to being bullied by [redacted].

The decision has been made by [redacted] Council Education Department, however I cannot accept the outcome.

I was advised to read the Scottish Education Act (1980) and there is a passage in this which states that a child can be refused entry to a particular school if they would affect the wellbeing/ education of another child. In this case, [redacted] starting [redacted] will affect at least 2 other children.

There are other local schools she could attend where [redacted] victims are not attending.

Additionally, I believe that GIRFEC values are not being followed with regards to my [redacted]

I contacted [redacted] Council to be told they would reply within 10 working days, however, this situation must be dealt with more urgently than that as [redacted] is due to start school soon and I do not want my [redacted] to have to deal with [redacted] bully and for [redacted] mental health to be adversely affected again.

I know this is a long email, however many details of the bullying have been left out. I just feel at the end of my tether with this situation and that even moving my [redacted] to a different school has not helped.

I am hopeful you can help.

I have contacted my local councillor about this and was advised to contact yourself.

My phone number if needed is [redacted]

My address is:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 14 March 2023 21:00
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Pupil Safety

Dear Ms Sturgeon,

A few months ago, I emailed you as a concerned [redacted] and [redacted] about the safety of children in Scottish schools.

I stressed the need to bring back specialist behaviour units and support, highlighting the point that the current inclusion system you have put in place is underfunded and failing everyone; pupils who need the support, pupils who simply want to sit in class and learn but can't through the disruption, teachers, parents and society.

Pupils in school are behaving dangerously with no consequence, making it impossible to maintain the safety of all working in the school. We are ALL entitled to go school/work with the confidence that we are safe and are treated with respect.

However, today I saw the horrendous attack that took place in a [redacted] [redacted], the second in a matter of weeks. This attack in particular could easily have left the pupil for dead. This terrifies me as a [redacted] of two high school age [redacted] and a [redacted] of 22 years.

I hope you will take this concern seriously and give a more considered reply than the last one. Do we really have to wait on a death before the government take it seriously. I am genuinely worried and almost at the point of being scared to go into work, not knowing what I will face in the day.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 10 March 2023 10:52
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Hill of [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

For the attention of Shirley-Ann Somerville

Dear Shirley-Ann

I would like you to be aware of the impacts that our local primary schools behaviour policy is having on my [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] and many other children in [redacted] class.

I fully support inclusion for all children especially those with special needs, behavioural issues etc. however there comes a point where the scales tip too far towards efforts to maintain inclusion for particular individuals.

My [redacted] comes home from school every day looking pale, afraid and upset. Today [redacted] is off school again with a sore head and a sore stomach. [redacted] used to be bright and bubbly, keen to learn and keen to go to school. This has now completely changed. [redacted] hates school and is scared in the playground and scared in the classroom. The schools policy for every child is to feel safe however this appears to fall behind attempts for inclusion.

My [redacted] has been physically and mentally hurt numerous times under the care of the school however nothing is being done to properly protect [redacted]. We have obviously discussed this with the school on several occasions but nothing gets done to change things.

Maybe the school is bound by policy or funding constraints that prevents positive action but irrespective of this every child has a basic right to feel safe in a happy and well managed school.

I feel strongly enough to escalate this to you as I feel that we 'on the shop floor' are unable to bring a resolution. In the mean time my [redacted] and several of [redacted] classroom peers will continue to suffer.

Best regards

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 22 February 2023 18:26
To: [redacted]@[redacted].gov.uk>
Cc: Matheson M (Michael), MSP <michael.matheson.msp@parliament.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; casehandling.service@gov.scot
Subject: Re: [redacted]

Dear Mr Mckay.

It's with great regret I'm writing yet again, [redacted]has informed me that yesterday a [redacted] punched [redacted] in the ribs winding her!

To say I'm furious is an understatement, this is now an assault! To go with the Food [redacted] is allergic to and used as a weapon against [redacted], something [redacted] has had to put up with throughout [redacted] school life. Mr [redacted] [redacted] child services have been contacted before about physical bullying by [redacted] when [redacted] was at [redacted] [redacted]

Using food as a weapon is just the same as another kid holding a knife to a pupil's throat, both could lead to serious consequences, maybe death. I will include an article where a child with allergies died in school by kids that bullied[redacted]. How many incidents and how much bullying does my [redacted] have to go through before it's even addressed!

[redacted]I emailed you on Feb 17th to arrange a meeting with the school that's 6 days ago!

If anything should happen to my[redacted]after warning every single person on this email, you will all be liable! If you are going to continually sweep everything under the carpet I will take it to the police as every single one of you is neglecting your duty of care.

How is my [redacted] meant to learn? Everyone is entitled to the same level of education. No wonder [redacted] never wants to go to school and when [redacted] does hides in the toilets, I had parents' night tonight and it was the same report, [redacted] is very distracted, [redacted] doesn't participate, [redacted] seems to have no friends, one teacher commented. [redacted] sits very quiet etc etc.. Classic signs of a bullied anxious child. Most of my 5 minutes with teachers was informing them why [redacted] has no confidence and why [redacted] doesn't participate, why [redacted] is late for classes, one teacher commented it all makes sense now, im really very sorry [redacted] has had to go through this! It seems getting punched is a regular occurrence but [redacted]has been too scared to tell us the full catalogue of events. When did it become acceptable for a boy to verbally and physically bully a [redacted]? Letting them continually get away with it is not great for the [redacted] they will come into contact later on in life. No wonder there is so much violence in Scotland and domestic abuse!

I will be up at the school at 9am 23/02/2023 and you better have the onsite police officer present as I will be reporting every incident to [redacted]. Until you can get control of your school and address the issues so [redacted] isn't victimised and discriminated against for [redacted] disabilities, physically assaulted for who [redacted] is, [redacted] will not be attending school as at the moment the sadness and anxiety i see in [redacted] i can't let [redacted] go through any more.

It all makes sense also why [redacted] eczema has broken out, a picture i will attach as well, [redacted] can hardly hold a pen at the moment, it will all be down to the stress [redacted] is constantly under.

You all need to take a long hard look at yourselves and hopefully not be like [redacted] [redacted] Head [redacted] [redacted] and deputy Head, who were only interested in saving their own reputation!

As a school I'd be looking at reporting yourselves as you have been totally inadequate up to now.

[redacted]
[redacted]

[attachment redacted under section 38(1)(b) (personal information)]

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to voice my concerns over the increasing level of violence and disruptive behaviour within my [redacted] school and within schools across Scotland.

My [redacted] attends [redacted] [redacted] School in [redacted], having moved from [redacted] [redacted] due to our dissatisfaction with how that school managed violence / bullying. [redacted] moved after the Easter break in [redacted] and is now in [redacted]

During her time at [redacted], particularly within the last year and half [redacted] has been the subject of physical violence from some of her peers. Having exhausted all avenues whilst [redacted] was in primary 5 to have these issues resolved, I had no option but to remove [redacted] from school until I was assured satisfactory action was taken.

I met with the head teacher who provided assurances in relation to the children who were being violent and agreed the level of communication I would receive should such instances occur, as I was only ever notified from my child, not from the school. Primary 6 started off reasonably well, but very quickly, [redacted] was subject to repetitive physical violence again. Despite communicating my expectations with the school almost daily, and escalating the issue to the assistant head teacher and head teacher, there has been no change.

The standard policy is not to retaliate and advise a PSA or a teacher. My [redacted] spent almost a year doing this to no avail, in fact being made to feel like [redacted] was not being truthful or their wasn't enough evidence because the adult did not see the incident occurring. Therefore, as you will appreciate, [redacted] completely lost faith in the school policy and I instructed [redacted] to defend [redacted] in any instance of violence which [redacted] has done since. However, much of this violence is from larger, stronger boys in her class so she always ends up the injured party. Whether [redacted] retaliates or not, there is no action taken to resolve this issue and my child welfare is at risk every day whilst at school. I have therefore been forced, again, to make the decision to remove [redacted] from school. As well as the issues affecting my [redacted], I have seen a marked increase in the frequency and severity of violent and disruptive incidents in [redacted] school and in other schools across Scotland due to social media. Children being seriously injured and sometimes hospitalised. Children's education being disrupted because it's not safe to be in a class when a child decides to become violent and throw furniture. Children in corridors cursing and swearing at school staff for all to see and hear. All of these instances occurring without any consequence whatsoever for the child involved, which has undoubtedly led to more children defending themselves, and more children being involved in violence / misbehaving, as what is the point in behaving when you can effectively do as you please without challenge.

My [redacted] has just over a year before [redacted] is moves on to high school. The circumstances in [redacted] school, as advised, has led to me removing [redacted] from school education for now, so the thought of sending [redacted] to high school fills me with fear. Due to violence not being addressed at a young age, these kids are heading to high school, becoming more violent and aggressive and making life difficult for those who want to learn.

It needs to stop. As a parent, the welfare of my child is my upmost priority and I should be able to trust our education system to keep her safe whilst [redacted] is learning. I am a working parent, so removing [redacted] from school has a detrimental impact on my employment and I should never have to make a choice

over whether to provide for my child through working, or to keep her safe through removing [redacted] from education.

Throughout my ongoing discussions with the school, COVID always seems to be to blame, however, these behaviours were apparent well before then and have only escalated due to several factors, COVID being one, but the main being the lack of an effective policy and incompetent staff to deter children from being violent as well as the lack of support staff within schools.

I am writing to urge the government to stop ignoring this issue and lead our schools away from violence being part of day-to-day life and our children either having to accept or be home schooled for their own safety. Our children are being failed, not just by school staff and the local authorities, but by the government as the problem is not just in one area, it is across Scotland and systemic.

I would like to be contacted to hear what action will be taken and what support will be in place for children and families like mine. Please note, I will be expressing my concerns through every channel possible and taking this discussion to a wider platform in time.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards

[redacted] [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Tel: [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 31 January 2023 00:33
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Continued bullying at Holyrood Secondary School

Hello,

I am emailing because I am at my witts end with worry over bullying towards my [redacted] year old [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]. [redacted] is only in first year and this has been ongoing since August/September right after [redacted] started.

There are a group of [redacted] and they are just relentless and will not stop at anything. I have spoken with the year head, the pastoral care teacher and also the headteacher. I have been up to the school, emailed and called so many times because of online bullying, threats of violence, waiting on [redacted] to fight [redacted] after school, insults and mocking [redacted] personal appearance for no reason at all. As far as I am aware these kids have had a referral which has done no good whatsoever. I believe a few of the parents have been informed but this hasn't worked either. Between 6 and 7 months this has went on with no resolution to the situation. I have lost faith in the school. I have been over their policy several times and I dont see that its being implemented. What is the point of it? These kids are not being punished appropriately and this is not being taken seriously enough. My childs safety is at risk each day I send her to this school.

Today was the second time the group of [redacted] waited outside the [redacted] petrol station [redacted] Road to fight with my [redacted]. worker from the petrol station had to tell the [redacted] to leave and she made sure my [redacted] stayed inside. I had just got there to collect [redacted] and one of the [redacted] shouted abuse at me into my car when I told them to stay away from [redacted]. This is the second time this [redacted] has gave me abuse when I have went to pick up my [redacted]

My [redacted] has been told tonight through text messages that [redacted] is getting jumped tomorrow by 2 of these [redacted].

This is causing major anxiety for [redacted] and for me. Its genuinely having a huge effect on my mental health and [redacted]. [redacted] was such a happy confident [redacted] and I can see that this is starting to change [redacted]. I already suffer from anxiety and this has just made me feel ill for months now. It has caused me and my partner to separate because my mood is constantly all over the place. I feel completely powerless to the situation - almost like I am failing my own child because I cant fix this for her. Not a week goes by where there isnt some sort of threat or insult or things being posted about [redacted], I am at my witts end with worry.

Today, I contacted the police and the head of Education, [redacted] [redacted]. The police are going to visit me tomorrow to look at the evidence I have gathered. I will wait to hear back from [redacted] [redacted].

This group of [redacted] have apparently targeted other people too. I have screenshots of one of them using racist language about another [redacted] and

posting it on social media. I will show this to the police tomorrow. The behaviour and actions from these kids is just disgraceful. Why should other kids need to suffer? I don't know why nothing is being done. There hasn't been any consequences for their behaviour.

My [redacted] is a good [redacted]. [redacted] is part of the school football team and also just got through to the cross country championships for the school. [redacted] has a good head on [redacted] shoulders but i am now noticing mood swings from time to time and she seems a bit distant at times. I feel like this is starting to bring [redacted] down and its breaking my heart.

I need help with this situation. Please can someone get back to me.

Regards,

[redacted] [redacted]

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

From: [redacted]< [redacted]@sky.com>
Sent: 30 January 2023 11:45
To: [redacted]@[redacted].gov.uk
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Bullying

My [redacted] currently attends [redacted] High School. [redacted] is in [redacted]. I have been in touch before as unfortunately my [redacted] is the victim of bullies. In the past 2 years I have attended several meetings in the school with different members of staff.

We had thought [redacted] bullying had stopped however recent events has shown it has not.

We are currently in touch with the school who assure us they are dealing with this.

I find myself getting in touch with you as I feel disappointed with how the bullying as a whole had been dealt with and I would ask you to read some of my points and ask yourself is there more we could be doing to protect our children?

As adults we ask our children to tell us when they are being bullied. Throughout their education and at home they are continually encouraged to talk to us and speak out. However, my [redacted] after speaking out was let down and left feeling isolated. Teachers offered [redacted] their office during break and lunch so he could feel safe. [redacted] started and finished school 5 minutes before and after the rest of his peers and was let out of class before the bell so as to avoid seeing his bullies outwith classes. [redacted] missed periods of school through fear. [redacted] was moved to different classes to get away from the bullies in his original class. [redacted] was offered therapy. [redacted] was asked what he wanted to make him feel safe in school. [redacted] was completely misunderstood by [redacted] teachers who failed to recognise the signs of bullying. [redacted] was told it's not really bullying just some name calling. [redacted] was told he had to build [redacted] resilience to these bullies.

These "solutions" that [redacted] was given that I have described above beg me to ask the question - Why?

Why do we isolate our victims? Why do we treat them as though they are the problem?

In society if you do something wrong you are punished not the victim. So why are we teaching our kids the opposite? Why are these bullies allowed to continue to have their lunch and break with friends? Why are they allowed to remain in their original class? Why are they not offered therapy to understand why they bully?

My [redacted] was brave enough to listen to the advice [redacted] has always been given and speak out and unfortunately the system has completely and utterly let him down. [redacted] still continues to have people threatening [redacted]. [redacted] is falling behind in studies and [redacted] wants to leave school as [redacted] does not feel comfortable anymore. [redacted] feels there is something wrong with him.

[redacted] feels isolated. [redacted] lacks confidence.

I ask you - does this seem right to you? Should the victim be the one struggling?

[redacted] has now taken things into [redacted] own hands and has unfortunately felt the need to react with violence. As much as this is not the correct way to handle

things I have to ask myself - can I blame [redacted]? [redacted] tried speaking out and the way the system deals with bullying failed [redacted] I ask you as adults to ask yourself if you were in these victims position's - how much could you take before snapping?

At parents night 5 out of 6 of [redacted] teachers failed to know why [redacted] had been off frequently, why [redacted] was falling behind with studies and they certainly had no perception of who [redacted] was as a person. 1 teacher knew [redacted] circumstances, supported [redacted] with his studies and completely understood who [redacted] is.

I ask you again - does this sound right to you? Should my [redacted] teachers not have been made aware so [redacted] could have been supported throughout [redacted] school day? Particularly since much of [redacted] bullying happened in class. As a result of this [redacted] is now falling behind.

Recent events with [redacted] have me questioning how things are dealt with. Whilst in PE last week [redacted] was elbowed in the face by one of his bullies. [redacted] reacted by punching [redacted]. [redacted] was told that the people that were asked in this class to verify this happened had said they didn't see it happen. Can I remind you these are 15/16 year old children. [redacted] asked if the pitch cameras had been checked to which [redacted] was told no. I struggle to understand why someone was able to elbow my [redacted] in the face causing his braces to cut his mouth without the teacher seeing? This is a question I've had to ask myself throughout the whole time [redacted] has been bullied. Why is checking cameras not the first port of call? Why are we relying on kids to verify someone being bullied? On speaking with the teacher dealing with this incident I understand [redacted] hands are tied when it come to proving things but I ask you how do we untie them? How do we help our kids so they continue to keep coming forward when being bullied like we ask of them.

"My hands are tied" is one of the phrases that I have continually heard through this whole experience. How can we help these teachers to discipline bullies where needed?

Bullying will live with [redacted] for the rest of his life. Not only will it live with [redacted] but also us as a family. We will never be able to forget the effect it has had on my [redacted].

It is too late now to change [redacted] school experience. Unfortunately the damage has already been done and he is now looking for other options to be educated but I urge to look into these complaints so as to prevent other children having the same experience. Clearly the way the system is just now is not working. Shouldn't the bullies be the ones punished? As it stands just now they are getting away with wrong behaviour due to lack of proof. But there must be a way to battle this as we all know bullies are clever and don't bully unless they know they won't be caught.

Let's create an environment where the children who want to do as asked of them at school can thrive. Where our children continue to speak out and where children are taught right from wrong. Surely this can only stand them well as they leave school and begin their adult life?

I have attached [redacted] High Schools bullying policy to this email. Please ask yourself if you feel the points made in this are being successful with regards to the information I have provided above.

I look forward to hearing your opinions on the above information and how to solve these problems. I intend to do my best to ensure this doesn't continue to happen to children. I hope I can rely on your support.

[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@nhs.scot>
Sent: 30 January 2023 01:03
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: [redacted] College bullying/violence

Dear Ms Somerville,

I write as a parent of [redacted] children who attend [redacted]College in [redacted] [redacted]. I wish to highlight serious concerns in relation to a growing culture of violence and a long-standing culture of bullying at the school. I consider the anti-bullying policies and strategies used by [redacted] to be outdated, inadequate and ineffective and consider the school to be currently failing in its ability to recognise that a crisis is occurring in relation to bullying, harassment and violence. I am writing today as I wish to urge all those in a position to influence change to prioritise this and tackle this problem head on.

Please find attached a copy of communication sent 26/01/23 to [redacted], current [redacted]of the school.

I would like to invite your response in relation to the same.

Kind regards

[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gmail.com>

Sent: 25 January 2023 15:11

To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Bullying

Dear Mr Swinney

I have read your document on bullying within education. It states that bullying incidents have to be recorded. I was wondering how this is monitored. My [redacted] is autistic and is currently in 2nd year. My [redacted] has suffered racial abuse from 4 months into 1st year. [redacted] has also been physically attacked in toilet areas and changing rooms, and also in class I have attended the school on several occasions as has his parents. On 1 occasion the bullying was dealt with but continued after this.

I am very concerned as my [redacted] was so frightened [redacted] took a kitchen knife into school to protect himself. This could have ended badly but he showed it to a boy and the school dealt with it. My [redacted] is excluded without any school work. I think school needs to understand my [redacted] is also a victim in all this and no child should feel that scared that they take a knife into school.

My question is when will the government tackle this problem fully by making schools responsible when they don't keep kids safe and don't provide safe spaces for children with additional needs.

I am so angry at this [redacted] school that only provides basic space for ASD children or any additional needs child. Surely under GIRFEC our schools should be getting better at supporting all children and being fully inclusive.

Kind regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.com>
Sent: 22 January 2023 08:39
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Cc: Willie.Rennie.msp@parliament.scot; Willie.Rennie.msp@parliament.scot
Subject: Violence in schools

Good morning,

I am emailing in response to the horrendous footage from the attack at [redacted]last week.

Until last summer, I was a [redacted] at a [redacted]school, where I had worked for 10 years. I left this post in August 2023 and now work in a [redacted] secondary school.

I want to outline some of the issues and pressures that teachers and support staff are having to deal with, and some of these are [redacted]specific; some are the result of national issues.

One of the main problems surrounding behaviour, bullying and issues with attainment are mobile phones in school. Something needs to be done by the government regarding mobile phones. They cause disruption with teaching and learning, and are often at the heart of bullying and violence in our schools. Whilst most schools have a policy where young people cannot use mobiles in class unless they are to aid learning, it is often a battle with youngsters to put these away. As a [redacted], I am aware that mobile phones cause numerous social problems in schools. The footage from [redacted] was filmed, distributed and viewed by huge numbers. This concerns me greatly. This is a national problem and I believe phones should be banned in the classroom - and even throughout the school day.

My next issue is a [redacted]issue. As a [redacted]teacher in [redacted], I had a significant caseload and I also taught my subject. Due to the amount of teaching time I had, I was unable to deal with the pastoral issues. There was not enough time in the day. I was dealing with serious child protection issues, bullying, parental requests, pupils' mental health issues, college and university applications, positive destinations. These all require time. I also taught certificated classes: National 5, Higher, plus Advanced Higher. Despite being an experienced, diligent teacher, I could not cope with the demands put upon me. I was not the only one. I spoke with management at my school about workload, suggesting areas for improvement. Little was done. I made the decision to leave [redacted] Council to work for another authority, where I could better serve the needs of the young people in my care. My question is this: why are [redacted] staff in Scotland not paid according to pupils in their care, and given adequate time to do the job? Why is there so much disparity between authorities? A [redacted] teacher in any school has similar pressures - we cannot deal with serious issues if we do not have the time to do so.

I hope these issues will be dealt with. To have a successful education system, which supports young people, changes must be made. Otherwise, violence will increase and attainment will drop.

Regards,
[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 20 January 2023 15:53
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: [redacted] [redacted]

Hi I'm not sure if this is something that you deal with but I don't know who else to turn to my [redacted] school is a complete shambles I have [redacted]at the school and [redacted] at [redacted] at the school going to [redacted] after the summer there is rats running about the playground the kids are constantly coming home saying there's no soap in toilets. The school are allowing children in p1 go into the nursery to sit because they are being violent so they are slowing them to go into the nursery to sit with there younger sibling so they don't miss behave I have a [redacted] there and if [redacted] violent I don't want [redacted] in with [redacted] they are also letting the[redacted]of this [redacted] into the school play ground at lunchtimes to stand the [redacted] in question is violent towards her own children and I don't not want [redacted] anywhere near my kids [redacted] hasn't had the necessary checks to be aloud in the playground I emailed the school on the 19/01/20223 regarding my concerns and was told that it had been passed on to [redacted]and [redacted] had picked it up and [redacted] would contact me there has been no contact and the parent in question was back in the playground and walking round the school again today I don't want deprive my children of a education but if she is in the playground or walking the school then I don't feel my children are safe the school are just trying to make there life's easier rather than dealing with problem my kids are at school behaving and getting a education will this child is out in a playground playing football or leaving the school grounds while the head and depute head teachers are having to follow [redacted]as [redacted] goes home this is a daily occurance as we see [redacted] every day doing this i do apologies if this is something you can't deal with but I am at my wits wand the school and [redacted] council do t want to listen to my concerns Sent from my iPhone

From: [redacted]@aol.com
Sent: 19 January 2023 17:06
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Cc: 'Rennie W (Willie), MSP' <Willie.Rennie.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: [redacted] [redacted], victims of assault

Dear Ms Sturgeon

I read with interest the reports in The Courier concerning the assaults at [redacted] [redacted]. We recently removed our [redacted] from [redacted] for that very reason, our youngest [redacted] who has FASD, ASD and ADHD was being assaulted on numerous occasions (I also have a video of an assault from last March in which our [redacted] was hit violently around the head, no action was taken by the school on that occasion).

Life for us as a family has been horrendous over the past year, our [redacted] behaviours as a result of his FASD and the numerous incidents of assault on [redacted] and [redacted] own truancy from school together behaviours of others around him etc. lead to his own behaviours deteriorating and becoming increasingly dangerous to us in our own home, and to his [redacted] [redacted] [redacted], both of which are ASD and one has additional learning difficulties. We cried out for help for a long time, had numerous meetings at [redacted] [redacted], sought help from social services, CAMHS and other services, but education particularly was letting our son down so badly [redacted] behaviours became uncontrollable. As a result, we had to make the very difficult decision to place [redacted] back into the care system in order for [redacted] to access some form of support and help. A devastating situation for us as a family and for [redacted]. The circumstances are obviously much more detailed but life as an adoptive parent with kids with difficulties has been made all the much worse by education services and, in particular, [redacted] [redacted].

Our [redacted] is now in foster care, he is attending Pupil Support Services and has the support of [redacted] Children's Charity. [redacted] is far from being where [redacted] should be and we can never get rid of the experiences [redacted] has endured. [redacted] took on and effectively copied the actions of others finding [redacted] in trouble with the Police and became violent and aggressive to the very people that have been there to support [redacted]. For this I am and will always place a level of blame at the hands of education, and in particular, [redacted] [redacted].

I am not sure where this email will land, but I just felt that I should write and explain that the incident brought to your attention is not isolated and at the heart of the issues are families like ours.

Kind regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: 18 January 2023 12:02
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

Dear sir/madam

I'm writing to you today in regards to [redacted] [redacted] in [redacted],my 11 year old [redacted]ask me last week to show [redacted]how to fight before she goes into first year after the summer,i asked [redacted]why [redacted]needs to know this and [redacted]reply with people are always fighting there is this [redacted]safe,can you please help me understand what is happening at this [redacted]that my [redacted] feels [redacted] needs to fight when [redacted]attends this school.

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@sky.com>

Sent: 17 January 2023 23:46

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

Cc: Willie.Rennie.msp@parliament.scot; [Shirley-](mailto:Shirley-Anne.Somerville.msp@parliament.scot)

Anne.Somerville.msp@parliament.scot; Claire.Baker.msp@parliament.scot;

Murdo.Fraser.msp@parliament.scot; Roz.McCall.msp@parliament.scot;

Subject [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

Dear Shirley -Anne,

And members that represent [redacted] [redacted].

I am writing to you in the hopes that you can take steps to protect and keep safe the pupils at [redacted] [redacted] in [redacted]

You will be aware of the horrendous incident that took place this week.

When a [redacted] attacked a fellow pupil and repetitively kicked [redacted] to the head and body breaking [redacted] nose and Jaw.

I currently have two [redacted] at this school and have serious concerns about the safety provided by the school.

It is my understanding that the perpetrator of the assault was in school today but put in to isolation. Not excluded

Having carried out a serious assault on another pupil in a class room that was recorded by another pupil and shared with the courier newspaper on the 17.1.23

The individual was not reported to the police by the school

Either.

The schools reputation has declined in recent years but this academic year has seen a significant increase in violence and fighting between pupils and I have been informed that the school prefers to deal with this in house.

It would appear the school is no longer a safe place to promote academic studies and development.

The school transport (buses) are also concerning.

The [redacted] [redacted] appears to have lost all control of its pupils.

I worry about my [redacted] and what state the school will be in by the time my [redacted] is ready for secondary education.

As the minister for education I hope you will take whatever steps are required to ensure that the [redacted] [redacted] does not continue to condone assault.

And allow pupils to attack each other with no consequences for there actions.

[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>

Sent: 17 January 2023 07:11

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Education Scotland Correspondence <Correspondence@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Owen Thompson MP <owen.thompson.mp@parliament.uk>; pupil.placement@[redacted]gov.uk

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@[redacted]gov.uk>

Subject:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email to make you aware of the sheer lack of response and action I have faced from [redacted] Primary school since I have reported bullying in their school, the first report of which just so happened to be during 'Anti Bullying week' which they promoted however when I reported bullying they actively ignored it and did not respond until I sent an email marked urgent in which I stated my next step would be to complain to other parties should they continue to ignore me.

The headmaster of the school called me after that and assured me [redacted] would actively make sure the people doing the bullying were spoken to and keep them aware from my daughter. It somewhat appears that one of them may have listened when spoken to however one of them clearly has not as the bullying has increased dramatically and when I called to report this I waited five days for a call back. A call back in which the teacher stated she would 'try to keep them apart but it was hard cause they wanted to play together' - I don't know any child that actively wants to "play" with their bully, could the teacher not maybe think that my child was being coerced into playing and hanging around this girl to only be the butt of her spiteful ways? Apparently not as [redacted] told me she raised it with the head teacher and they would try to keep them apart – again this is something I was already promised to happen.

After this call on 16th January my [redacted] once again came home upset and so I asked [redacted] what was wrong, it turns out the bullying had progressed even further to the bully making my [redacted] stand in a corner and only move when [redacted] told her this. This as expected made me upset and angry and I called back the school to ask what would be done now – again teacher said she would 'keep them away from each other' I made it clear that we were beyond this point and I wanted more done however she told me [redacted] was unsure if the head teacher was in and that [redacted] would 'email him' and get [redacted] to set up a meeting.

It is clear to me that [redacted] primary think they can sweep this under the rug and not deal with it however this is not something I will be letting go. I will not allow my [redacted] to be targeted as a victim and for the school to ignore it as they appear to want to do.

Also my [redacted] will not be getting punished for the behaviour of other children so whatever steps they think they will take to rectify this will not be detrimental to my [redacted] in any way, shape or form.

I am writing to all included in this email to let you know about the failings my [redacted] year old [redacted] has faced and ask you for help in making sure [redacted] primary take the correct steps to rectify this so that the victim is protected and not the bully.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely, [redacted]

From: [redacted] [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 09 January 2023 14:09
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Bullying policy and protocol

Hi there, I am writing to get some information if you would be personal be able to help.

I am sick of my local authority and school playing down bullying and not following protocols in place at school. Since my [redacted] started high school in 2016 [redacted] has been subjected to,

- bullying
- sexual assault
- harassment
- hate speech
- and a number of other things

The school have only logged about 5-10% of complaints of bullying on the seemis report.

Also when my [redacted] on both occasions was sexually assaulted they did not inform the police or follow any procedures they were meant to.

The first sexual assault the school took [redacted] and the accused in to a room to ask the both questions. The police were alerted when [redacted] contacted us so we called the police. This allowed on one occasion for the person to be at home and for clothing to be washed ect taking away vital time for the police to gather evidence.

[redacted] was also assaulted on 2 occasions by the same person in the space of 5 minutes, I think it was in 2nd year where again we had to get the police involved as the school failed to, this happened in front of staff. Where where told that the schools hands where tied and we would have to call the police.

My child is sent to school to be safe this is no way safe and the welfare and wellbeing is questionable.

I have over the years been in touch and logged complaints with the council which have had no bearing on the bullying in anyway.

My [redacted] at times was bullied all day every day for weeks on end.

I would like an answer into the situations that have led to these failures.

I will provide names of school councils and my [redacted] once I know if this is something that can be looked in to as I have lost all confidence in the council in question.

[redacted] [redacted]

From: [redacted]< [redacted]@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 04 January 2023 10:31
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>
Subject: Serious assault

I am writing this email due to having serious concerns about [redacted] school and the way they do not deal with bullying. My son [redacted] [redacted] has been getting bullied for some time now. This has continued with nothing been done. Most recent was just before Christmas where my [redacted] old [redacted] was seriously assaulted by another [redacted] by the name of [redacted] [redacted], who is also the same [redacted] that's been bullying my [redacted] for some time. This incident happened in the cloak room, where there are cameras, where [redacted] kicked my [redacted] in the testicles. My [redacted] was then sent to 4 different teachers before ending up at the head teachers office. At this time [redacted] decided to not follow it up due to no witnesses. [redacted] was found by 2 other children where [redacted] was laying on the floor crying. [redacted] came home and told myself and later showed me the bruising from this serious assault. I then contacted the school when [redacted] asked me into school to be with [redacted] when [redacted] could see the bruising. I went in but the bruising was not checked out and still saying no witnesses so nothing can be done. I have had [redacted] to the doctors where [redacted] has been diagnosed with having anxiety attacks due to what is going on at school. The doctor did highly recommend I escalate this matter as [redacted] is scared to attend school now. I have taken [redacted] out of school and will not be attending school until this matter has been resolved and his safety is assured. I would like a meeting to discuss this further. This is by far not the only incident and the school is becoming well known for bullying. Look forward to hearing from u thank u [redacted]