

# Sue Webber MSP submission of 22

November 2022

## PE1896/C: Provide every primary school child in Scotland with a reusable water bottle

I would like to note that the First Minister had invited Callum to Bute house to discuss his campaign further but there has been no invitation forthcoming. I am very disappointed that a young boy has been used in such a manner by the First Minister. She took every opportunity to meet him, take photos, and publicise the meeting in the press when he last came to Parliament but all her commitments to him have been hollow and have disappointed me greatly. The First Minister has been able to find the time to go on a photo tour in Egypt at COP27, but not to honour her promise to a little boy whose amazing achievement was recognised at COP26. When politicians talk about engaging with young people, nothing is more discouraging than not following through with commitments made directly to them and forgetting about them.

I would encourage the Committee to accept the premise of the petition. I know budgets are tight and right now we are all looking for savings, both in Government budgets and at home, but I would have hoped that given the leadership role Callum has taken with this, raising £1400 for his fellow school pupils to get a reusable bottle, that we could honour the principles of his request. This is a practical solution that can be implemented quickly to deliver results immediately in reducing plastic in our schools.