

Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity submission of 22 May 2023

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

Thank you for your letter of 21 April relating to petition PE1896: Provide every primary school child in Scotland with a reusable water bottle, and my attendance at a Committee evidence session on 22 February 2023.

Your letter requested that I write to all of Scotland's local authorities, referring specifically to petition PE1896, seeking the following information:

- The methods of water provision in each local authority-run school (i.e. is water provided to children through single-use bottles, water fountains etc.)
- How the authority is meeting the sustainability requirements under the Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007.
- whether the authority would be interested in participating in a national procurement exercise for reusable metal water bottles, in order to benefit from economies of scale and to meet the aim of Callum's petition.

Although I attended the evidence session due to the subject matter falling within my Ministerial portfolio, these questions raised fall within the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and a response to your requests will therefore be provided by the Cabinet Secretary.

I would of course be happy to respond to any other relevant queries the Committee might have and I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm my support for the principle of reducing single-use plastics use in schools.

Lorna Slater MSP, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity