

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills submission of 6 January 2023

PE1953/D: Review Education Support staff roles

I am writing in response to your correspondence dated 14 November 2022 in relation to the petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review Education Support (ES) staff roles.

The Scottish Government has established the Bute House Agreement Exploration Group in September 2022. The Group aims to explore the options on the development of an accredited qualification and registration programme for Additional Support Needs Assistants and to present their recommendations by Autumn 2023.

The Group has begun investigating what accreditation provisions are already in place inside the educational sector and what model could be adopted. The Group will work closely with the Unions. The Pupil Support Staff Engagement Program led by Education Scotland, which is currently in progress, aims to get input from the workforce on the necessity of accrediting training and registration for assistants for additional support needs.

The secretariat of the Pupil Support Staff Working Group can assist the petitioner in engaging with the Group.