

Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on petition [PE1927](#): Install CCTV cameras in all additional support needs schools, lodged by Claire Mooney

Previous petition

This petition is in similar terms to a previous petition, Ms Mooney lodged in November 2018. [PE1709](#) called on “the Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to install CCTV cameras and establish full time social work presence in all additional support needs schools in Scotland.”

The then Petitions Committee explored the petition over three meetings and the petition was closed on 30 January 2020, “on the basis that from written submissions received, there is limited support for the action called for in the petition”.

The Committee received the following submissions—

- [PE1709/A: UNISON Scotland submission of 17 December 2018](#)
- [PE1709/B: NASUWT Scotland submission of 20 December 2018 \(141KB pdf\)](#)
- [PE1709/C: Scottish Government submission of 21 December 2018 \(127KB pdf\)](#)
- [PE1709/D: Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association submission of 21 December 2018 \(125KB pdf\)](#)
- [PE1709/E: Petitioner submission of 11 June 2019 \(140KB pdf\)](#)
- [PE1709/F: COSLA submission of 18 December 2019 \(103KB pdf\)](#)
- [PE1709/G: Petitioner submission of 16 January 2020 \(160KB pdf\)](#)

Submissions from UNISON and NASUWT highlighted concerns they had in relation to how children with ASN were supported, but the submissions questioned whether CCTV would be beneficial. The Scottish Government highlighted that decisions to install CCTV would normally be taken by local authorities or managers of independent schools; it also highlighted that there

would be human rights considerations around privacy. COSLA's submission echoed some of these concerns. The Scottish Government's submission noted a number of pieces of policy work around supporting disabled children and child protection. The petitioner's submissions noted the potential for CCTV to support accountability and convictions.

In addition to the initial SPICe briefing, the then Committee commissioned an additional paper on "whether CCTV is being used in similar settings in other countries" and "what evidence is there to suggest that the approach works well". The SPICe briefings can be found here:

- [SPICe Briefing \(300KB pdf\)](#)
- [Additional SPICe Briefing \(159KB pdf\)](#)

Further developments

Supporting children with additional support needs, and particularly those with complex needs remains an area of policy focus. The Committee may wish to note two particular developments since the previous petition was closed.

The [review of Additional Support for Learning was published in June 2020](#). Its focus was on the support for children with ASN in schools. It made a number of recommendations and commentaries about how the support for children with ASN is delivered in practice. The report focused on the experience of children and young people, their parents and practitioners. It highlighted five common threads of that experience:

- a disconnect between policy intention and the practical experience
- significant challenges to meet the needs of children
- not all children and young people and those that support them are equally valued
- children and young people and the parents, carers and professionals working closest to them all express frustration at not being listened to by people within the system who they perceive to have the power to act or make changes
- there are a range of strategic and operational factors which create the disconnect between policy and practice.

The [Scottish Government published an Additional Support for Learning: Action Plan on 21 October 2020](#). The Scottish Government stated that it, COSLA and ADES are "collaborative partners in this action plan" and the recommendations were all accepted or in one case partially accepted. The [Scottish Government and COSLA published a progress report](#) on delivering the recommendation of the Review on 1 November 2021.

In January 2020, the Government established a [Physical Intervention Working Group](#). The purpose of this group is to “develop new national human rights based guidance to minimise the use of physical intervention and seclusion in Scottish schools” and “consider the approach taken by local authorities on the recording and monitoring of such incidents, and make recommendations to take forward the introduction of a standard dataset to help inform improvement at a local level”.

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1/4/2022

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at spice@parliament.scot

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