

**PE1319/I**

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**NORTH AYRSHIRE**  
COUNCIL

Your Ref:

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Fergus D Cochrane  
Clerk to the Committee  
Public Petitions Committee  
Scottish Parliament

2 June 2010

Dear Mr Cochrane

### **Response to Petition 1319**

My apologies for the late response.

Q. What are your views on the Petition etc.

A. I have consulted with all relevant services within North Ayrshire Council and we have had no issues to deal with in relation to these matters. We would expect the SFA to fulfil its duty of care to all young people contracted to any football club. We would expect careful consideration to be given to keeping a proper balance between recognising and nurturing young talent and ensuring that young people are able to fully participate in the life of their school.

Q What monitoring do you do etc.

A. None to date

Q. What concerns have you raised?

A. None to date

Q. What is your view on the impact current system is having on education and welfare of under 16s

A. No direct knowledge of this. However, we would concur with those who challenge restrictions on participation in normal school activities as disproportionate and unfair. Children as young as 10 or 11 will not be able to fully understand the commitments they may be entering into. Equally parents may not fully understand what will be involved. We welcome public discussion of these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Osborne  
Policy and Performance Officer  
Chief Executive's Service