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Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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Dear Anne Peat

PETITION PE1319

Thank you for your letter of 1 February in relation to petition PE1319.

The Scottish Government has consistently made it clear that the Scottish FA and the football clubs have a duty of care for all the young people involved within the youth initiative which must be upheld at all times.

As part of Curriculum for Excellence, the Scottish Government is committed to ensuring the provision of at least two hours per week of Physical Education in primary schools and at least two periods of PE in secondary schools for pupils in S1-S4 by 2014. In addition, the new curriculum framework facilitates opportunities for children and young people to participate in a wide range of sport and physical activities in and around the school day through programmes such as Active Schools. The Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport Excellence Group has been formed to focus on how, the Scottish Government can best support Local Authorities to achieve this, as well as maintaining the continuity of provision into S5 and S6 and improving the connections around PE, Physical Activity and School Sport.

We know that exercise is a long-term investment in health and habits formed in childhood and adolescence continue into adulthood. The Scottish Government's *'Take Life On'* campaign underpins this by highlighting the importance for children to do at least 60 minutes activity a day which will bring tangible benefits to their health and wellbeing throughout their life.

Since the inception of Cashback for Communities in 2007, over £44 million recovered from proceeds of crime has been invested or fully committed to a wide range of sporting, cultural, educational and mentoring activities for children and young people throughout Scotland. So far over 600,000 young people have directly benefitted and this investment includes over £25 million on sporting activities and facilities projects. Last year, we announced £8 million from the Cashback for Communities programme would help support Scottish football over the next three years. £3 million is delivering a range of free football activities for young people which includes the creation of six new girls and women development officers who are focussing on increasing participation in the game. A further £5m is supporting the

development of 22 quality new 3G football facilities in communities across Scotland allowing people access to excellent quality facilities all year round.

In relation to any investment through the Cashback for Communities programme to the Scottish FA, there are appropriate controls and reporting mechanisms in place to ensure full propriety of public funds. The Scottish FA are required to deliver a series of targets and objectives as set out in their Grant Offer Letter and report back to Scottish Ministers on progress regularly.

Yours sincerely

Derek Grieve
Head of Sport and Physical Activity Policy