

PE1530/H

Paul S Jenkins Email of 8 November 2014

Dear Sirs,

I write in support of Petition PE01530: "Guidance on how creationism is presented in schools."

Science education is vital for the future prosperity of Scotland, and the rest of the United Kingdom. It is important therefore that schoolchildren should be given science lessons that teach accepted mainstream science, and not fringe, minority ideas with no scientific basis.

Evolution and common ancestry are fundamental to biology, as the true ages of the ancient Earth and the cosmos are fundamental to physics. This is established science and should be at the core of school science teaching.

Separate creationism denies the scientific fact of evolution and runs counter to accepted mainstream science. It should not, therefore, be taught in science lessons, let alone be proffered as an alternative theory. Separate creationism and intelligent design may be appropriate subjects for discussion in philosophy or related classes, but since they have no scientific basis they are unsuitable subjects for science lessons.

Groups such as the Centre for Intelligent Design and Creation Ministries International have expressed their intentions to get teaching materials into UK schools. While teachers in England and Wales have specific guidance regarding such efforts, no official guidance is yet available for teachers in Scotland. Such guidance needs to state that ideas without scientific basis — such as separate creationism and intelligent design — have no place in school science classes.

Yours faithfully,

Paul S Jenkins BA (Hons) Arch