

**PE1319/NNN**

Scottish Government letter to the Committee of 24 August 2016

Thank you for your letter of 1 July 2016 about Petition PE1319 on improving youth football in Scotland. You also enclosed a letter to me of 27 June from the petitioners. I have not received that directly, so would be grateful if you could forward the attached response to them.

While the Scottish Government has emphasised strongly to the Scottish FA and SPFL that concerns on this issue must be taken seriously and Scottish football must ensure the human rights of children and young people are reflected in all its activity, the implementation of these measures is the responsibility of the football authorities.

The relevant rule changes have been approved by the Scottish FA Board and are now in place. There will be ongoing assessment of their effectiveness by the Scottish FA and SPFL, with a comprehensive review at the end of season 2016-17. I believe a full season is a reasonable timeframe for us to be able to assess how effective these measures have been.

The Scottish Government will continue to monitor these new measures, and would be happy to discuss with the Public Petitions Committee and other stakeholders – including the Children and Young People’s Commissioner in Scotland – how we can provide appropriate oversight to ensure the human rights of children and young people are reflected.

**AILEEN CAMPBELL**