

PE1319/YYY

Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland submission of 21 November 2019

A letter from the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport dated 21 November 2019

In May 2015 the office of the Children and Young People's Commissioner, Scotland produced a report titled "[*Improving youth football in Scotland*](#)." This report produced a number of specific recommendations for the Scottish Government and Scottish Football Association.

The key recommendations of this report revolve around the best interests of children and young people and their right to be able to influence decision-making processes in the context of football clubs.

The report was submitted to the Petitions Committee to support their work on Petition PE1319 (improving youth football in Scotland).

The Scottish Government is responsible for ensuring that children and young people are not subject to commercial exploitation in sports. It is also important that children are able to exercise their right to play and participate in recreational activities in a safe and nurturing environment.

To ensure that the concerns and recommendations raised in the 2015 report are addressed, I am writing to ask what steps the Scottish Government intend to take or have taken thus far on this matter.

Particularly, whether the Scottish Government feels that self-regulation is ensuring children's rights are protected effectively, or whether you agree that statutory measures are now required?

For information purposes, I have copied in the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee and the campaigners who have been undertaking significant work and campaigning on the issues for nearly ten years.