

PE1548/U

Petitioner Email of 2 February 2016

Dear Mr Sharratt,

I met with representatives of The Scottish Government and Education Scotland on Friday 8th January. I travelled to Glasgow along with colleagues from The Challenging Behaviour Foundation and BILD (British Institute Of Learning Disabilities) we had been told they would be sharing a draft of new guidelines with us, but this didn't happen. We did, however hear about improvements being made to the special schools inspection process which appeared very positive.

Since then, we have provided them with additional information including a draft of guidelines that we have had written by one of the Directors of CALM training and underpinned by BILD's current code of practice. We have also offered lots of advice and information on Positive Behaviour Support and, we have shared a ready-made "template" of a specially designed "communication passport" for children with special needs which we believe would benefit all staff caring for children with complex needs in schools and could form the basis of a behaviour support plan.

As of today, we still await any feedback or acknowledgment of the proposals and material we sent.

We would also like to draw the committees attention to a statement issued by The Challenging Behaviour Foundation earlier last month.

<http://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk/learning-disability-assets/statementonrestrictivephysicalinterventionswithchildren.pdf>

We have a real chance to change the inappropriate, ineffective and outdated culture currently practised in many parts of Scotland and instead deploy modern, effective evidence based best practise throughout the whole country. The positive behaviour support approach that we advocate reduces the likelihood of unnecessary confrontation, restraint and injury and increases the likelihood that the human rights of the most vulnerable children in our society are properly observed. It also greatly increases the chances of a less stressful working day for all staff.

I would be grateful if the Committee could ensure that the officials at the Scottish Government and Education Scotland are taking into account the suggestions made by myself and experts in this field.

Yours Sincerely

Beth Morrison
Petitioner PE01548