



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

John Swinney MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Scottish Government

T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email

Direct Tel: 0131 348 5222
es.committee@parliament.scot

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Dear John

I am writing to you in relation to the review of personal and social education being undertaken by Education Scotland.

The Committee undertook a survey of young people to learn more about why young people follow certain routes, what helps them and what hinders them, and whether they get to where they want to be.¹ This included the support and information available to help them know, at school and beyond, what the available options are. It also explored how young people made decisions about their future.

The Committee was mindful that the survey should complement the work undertaken by SQW / YoungScot supporting the Scottish Government's review of the learner journey. One of the "ideas for change" in the SQW / YoungScot report was—

Review and redesign of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) – so that it provides young people with the skills required to succeed in life. These include how to develop a CV and prepare for an interview, how to manage finances and how to develop and maintain healthy relationships. A secondary suggestion was that any review of PSHE be done in collaboration with young people themselves to ensure that it meets their needs.²

In our survey 48% agreed with the statement "*My school offers / offered 'life skills' support (e.g. in PSE classes) to help with filling in applications, practicing interviews etc.*". 52% agreed that "*My school provides / provided access to additional support services (e.g. counsellors or mentors) either inside or outside school.*"

When you spoke in a debate on PSE in November, you set out the timescales for the PSE review. The final analysis and recommendations-making phase (Phase 3) was due to begin in June 2018. I would be grateful if you could ensure that the SQW / YoungScot report and the Committee's survey results form part of the evidence base for the work in Phase 3.

¹ An analysis of the survey responses has been published [here](#).

² <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00525156.pdf> (p4)

The Committee would also welcome an update on the progress of the review. Please confirm whether the PSE review is running to the timetable you set out to Parliament in November and when you expect Phase 3 to conclude. In the meantime, the Committee would wish to see interim outputs from Phases 1 and 2 to enable the Committee to understand the basis for Phase 3 recommendations when they are produced.

I would be grateful for a response to this letter by 12 June.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Dornan". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

**JAMES DORNAN MSP
CONVENER**