



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

John Swinney MSP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary
for Education and Skills
Scottish Government

T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Direct Tel: 0131 348 5222
Fax: 0131 348 5600
es.committee@parliament.scot

7 January 2021

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Public Petitions

As you will be aware, a number of public petitions have been referred to the Education and Skills Committee. The Committee most recently considered its referred petitions on 11 November 2020 and agreed to write to you to seek an update on two of these petitions; namely *PE01692: Inquiry into the human rights impact of GIRFEC policy and data processing* and *PE1548: National Guidance on Restraint and Seclusion in Schools*.

PE01692

In your most recent letter of 29 January 2020 regarding the guidance and products to support information sharing, you confirmed that the suite of products referred to in your September 2019 letter were still in the early stages of development but that the Scottish Government “expect[ed] to publish these materials by the end of 2020 and the additional guidance will be subject to a consultation process”. The Committee would welcome an update on when this guidance and other materials is expected to be published.

PE1548

We understand that a working group, of which the petitioner is a member, has been formed to establish and develop new guidance in relation to restraint and seclusion in schools. The Committee would welcome an update on the timescales of the working group’s work, and when it expects to complete its work.

The Committee would welcome a response by Thursday 4 February.

Yours sincerely

**CLARE ADAMSON MSP
CONVENER**