

PE1581/Q

Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS)
Letter of 22 September 2016

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE PETITION PE01581: SAVE SCOTLAND'S SCHOOL LIBRARIES

I am writing on behalf of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS) in support of the petition 'Save Scotland's School Libraries', which has been lodged by Mr Duncan Wright. CILIPS is the Scottish arm of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, the leading professional body for librarians, information specialists and knowledge managers. We agree with the points made in the petition and strongly support the call for a national strategy for school libraries in Scotland.

We are deeply concerned at changes to services such as the recent removal of all school librarians in Argyll and Bute and the removal of half of the school librarians in East Renfrewshire. These, and other similar changes across the country, are creating a situation where the school library service young people receive depends on where they live in Scotland.

The changes run counter to current national initiatives aiming to support and enhance literacy and will inevitably lead to a poorer overall educational experience for pupils. A body of impact studies highlight the contribution of school librarians to improved attainment and achievement.¹

We support the Government's ambition for Scotland to be the best place to grow up and learn and contend that professional school librarians are integral to its realisation. High quality learning opportunities should include access for all school pupils to a professionally trained librarian and information expert with knowledge of learning styles who is:

- located within the school and available throughout and beyond the school day;
- managing a safe, secure and supportive environment for formal and informal learning;
- responsible for curating resources to support the curriculum;
- partnering teachers in supporting delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence;
- engaging pupils in information seeking and discussion;
- promoting information literacy across the curriculum; and
- developing critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers and ethical users of information.

¹ http://scottishlibraries.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SLIC_RGU_Impact_of_School_Libraries_2013.pdf

In order to achieve the above, we strongly encourage the Scottish Government to support the call to develop a national strategy for school libraries in Scotland.

Yours Sincerely

Catherine Kearney

CILIP in Scotland Director