

PE1623/X

Scottish Government submission of 25 May 2017

Thank you for your letter of 28 April in respect of Petition PE1623 from the Scottish Secular Society calling for changes to the current practices under Section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 which requires that local authority education committees must include members nominated by various churches.

Following your meeting on 27 April you requested clarification on the Scottish Government's timescale for publishing the Education Governance Review findings, clarification on whether an Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out any policy changes from the Education Governance Review and whether the Scottish Government will consider the Scottish Secular Society's proposals made through this petition or their response to the Education Governance Review.

Taking your questions in order I can confirm that it is our intention to publish a Next Steps document in June setting out how we will build on the proposals in the Education Governance Review and consult on our commitment to a funding formula.

As our previous response mentioned, we will carry out an Equality Impact Assessment on any policy changes made through the Education Governance Review adhering to the Public Sector Equality Duty of the Equality Act 2010.

The Scottish Secular Society's response to the Education Governance Review is currently being considered amongst the other 1153 responses received. Therefore, for clarity, my previous response referred to the Scottish Secular Society's proposals relating to the action called for through Petition PE1623.