



**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01417**

### **Name of petitioner**

Andrew Ellis Morrison

### **Petition title**

Educating our future generations: Councils should listen to parents

### **Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 to allow a right to appeal to Scottish Ministers where local authorities do not abide by the majority decision of 'relevant consultees', as specified in Schedule 2 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, where a local authority is consulting on issues stipulated in Paragraphs 4 & 5 of Schedule 1 of the same Act.

### **Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

An attempted appeal to the relevant local authority the example cited in this petition stems from.

A further appeal attempted made to elected Councillors representing the area concerned, where the example cited in this petition stems from.

Lobbying by parents and other consultees by way of demonstration, contact with the media and other relevant organisations in order to try and persuade the local authority this particular example originates from to abide by the majority decision reached by the consultation.

### **Petition background information**

Using one example, a public consultation was carried out with relevant consultees, as defined by law (parents, pupils, etc. at both schools concerned) with regards the realignment of the catchment area of a specified secondary school to a primary school despite the clear majority of consultees preferring a more accessible establishment.

A public consultation on these changes was carried out in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and 85% of respondents were 'against' the proposal advanced by the local authority concerned. We believe the reasonable wishes of parents and other consultees must be respected, especially when there is such a clear majority against the course of action the local authority proposed in this case.

This situation is not merely a local matter – it happens across the country and the example cited is only one such case. That is why we are petitioning the Scottish

Parliament: to remedy an issue which occurs across the country with legislation at a national level, which local authorities would be legally-bound to comply with.

There should be a right to appeal to Scottish Ministers where a local authority does not listen to the majority wishes of parents, pupils and all other consultees when making decisions listed within the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

The effect of this legislation would be to allow consultees to appeal to Scottish Ministers where a public consultation has been held, and a majority decision was made by the consultees, which a local authority then makes a decision contrary to.

#### Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01417>

#### Related information for petition

**Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?**

NO

**How many signatures have you collected so far?**

84

**Closing date for collecting signatures online**

N/A

**Comments to stimulate online discussion**