



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01434

Name of petitioner

Nairn McDonald

Petition title

Additional funding for sport facilities and a minimum level of sports facilities

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make sure every school can provide adequate sports facilities and resources for their students and to create a minimum level of facilities available.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

Having contacted North Ayrshire Council many times I always get the same reply James Watt College can't afford it and having tried to get MSPs to help I get the same response constantly. Money is the main issue why the movement can't go forward former councillor and now MSP Margaret McDougall told me. The only help I have received is from the MP for North Ayrshire, Ms Katy Clark who has been very helpful but I feel even her attempts are limited. Also having contacted councillors all seem unhelpful and unable to help in this important matter.

Although this is only one example I believe in other local authorities there will be similar examples.

Petition background information

It is my firm belief that funding for schools is far too low, being a secondary school pupil myself I see that the cuts to the education sector are harsh and severe. The sheer fact that a school in North Ayrshire must go through a land deal to receive a sports pitch that all other schools have had for a long time previously is not right. Also many schools lack funding for jotters and other equipment. I believe the most cuts are seen in the P.E department.

Studies by many bodies have shown that sports have a good impact on a deprived areas life expectancy and overall health. And all schools must hence have the proper and adequate facilities and resources to not only provide sports but to provide a decent level of education and social awareness for students.

The Scottish Government as it stands allocates funding through Sport Scotland and although the effects of many projects are good the funding for a minimum level of sporting facilities has never been comprehended.

A child born in a deprived area is born with shorter telomeres (the part of DNA which

holds the chromosome together) and hence will have a shorter life (Glasgow university)-http://www.gla.ac.uk/news/headline_219831_en.html - if we can increase a community's level of sport and level of education then surely it comes as consequence that we can increase life expectancy and standard of living and a child's prospects for the future.

Although I am aware of recent government initiatives-like cash back for communities which “ takes the ill-gotten gains of crime, recovered through the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and invests them into community programmes, facilities and activities largely, but not exclusively, for young people at risk of turning to crime and anti-social behavior as a way of life”.- I feel this is not sufficient, they are too small and far apart and also they cannot intake new projects so these can't make a greater impact and have limited funding. In light of current cuts form Westminster and the coalition government. If a school can afford the proper equipment and facilities then it comes as consequences that the children educated will have more of an ability to become the prosperous partners in society.

I believe a minimum level of facilities should be created it should include all schools having all weather pitches and suitable equipment i.e. crash mats; these should have to be checked yearly for safety.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE1434>

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?

1

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion