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Rhona Brankin MSP
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Public Petitions Committee
TG.01
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear Rhona,

CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS PE1098 & PE1223

Thank you for your letter of 28 October seeking an update on my discussions with Keith Brown, Minister for Skills and Lifelong Learning, which I informed the Committee would take place following its meeting on 26 October. The Committee also asked for information on the plans to monitor the effectiveness of the school bus guide after its publication.

The outcome of our talk is that Keith Brown wrote on 25 November to Mike Penning, Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport, to seek a meeting to discuss devolving powers with regard to school transport to the Scottish Government. I am enclosing a copy of the letter for the Committee's information.

With regard to monitoring effectiveness, we will undertake a short survey in February 2011 to gather initial reactions and will follow that up after one year with a full review. However, as the guide will be a live website publication we will also update it as necessary if any significant issues arise in the interim, for example, should there be any change to devolved powers.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature box]

STEWART STEVENSON