

PE1545/M

Donaldson's School Email of 4 December 2015

Dear Sigrid,

I am writing in response to your Letter dated the 28th of October in relation to Petition PE 1545.

Having considered the suggestion in the petition that Donaldson's would in some way address the shortfall of residential care for severely learning disabled children, young people and adults in Scotland by extending the facilities and intake I am now in a position to respond.

Donaldson's School has gone through a period of significant change due to the issuance of a Notice of a Section 66 in November 2014. There have been many improvements made in response to this notification including a comprehensive restructure of staff. Going forward we are now in a position where we are reviewing our constitution and the medium to long term future of the school and the trust. With a falling school role we are critically aware that it is necessary to review all aspects of the service and our business model to ensure financial viability to secure the future of the organisation. We are working closely with the Scottish Government Learning Directorate, Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate to ensure that we are continuing to meet the recommendation that came from the Section 66 Notice. In addition we are working with our parents, pupils, staff and current and potential partners to consider possible options for the future of Donaldson's based on a needs analysis. At this time it is not our intention to expand our residential services to accommodate severely learning disabled children, young people and adults. In particular, it must be noted that the current residential facilities at Donaldson's were built for children who are deaf or who have a hearing loss and not for those with severe and complex physical or health issues. The residential accommodate would need considerable adaptation to accommodate this particular group of service users and this is not currently a consideration for the trust at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Battles
Chief Executive Officer