

PE1583/A

Petitioner Letter of 8 December 2015

Dear Convener

Many thanks for inviting me to attend the Committee meeting on 15th December 2015, in order to further expand on and answer questions regarding, the above named petition regarding early morning playground supervision in primary schools.

Please find enclosed links to documents containing further evidence in support of the petition, along with an updated version of the excel datasheet previously submitted : "Data relating to early morning playground supervision at Primary Schools in Scotland".

This datasheet has been updated following receipt of two further responses from Councils to FOI requests, as well as the fact that, I had noted some inconsistencies in the figures quoted by one or two Councils regarding the number of 'incidents recorded'.

[These Councils had provided statistics in a spreadsheet, detailing the total incidents of each type at each school in their County during a given time period. I have since noted that the total figures at the end of each 'type' column were added together incorrectly by the responder, rendering the figures quoted in the original data sheet supplied together with my petition, incorrect].

An index of all the evidence included, in preparation for the meeting is included for ease of reference. The evidence supports items which will be raised at the meeting, and committee members may wish to familiarise themselves with these beforehand. They may alternatively be used as a useful reference afterward.

Should the Committee require it, I would also be very happy to provide a soft copy of my '5 minute introduction', after the Committee meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further clarification.

Wendy and I look forward to meeting you all.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Willis

Index of Evidence PE01583: Primary School Playground Supervision

	File name:	Subject:
1	Better Behaviour, Better Learning 2006.pdf http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/158381/0042908.pdf	Behaviour within schools - background information
2	Better relationships, better learning, better behaviour 2013.pdf http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0041/00416217.pdf	Behaviour within schools - background information- update
3	Council Data re Early Morning Playground Incidents (PE01583).pdf	Council data relating to early morning incidents
4	Council Data re Playground Supervision - Freedom of Information Requests (PE01583) vs 2.pdf	Council data regarding early morning playground supervision
5	Derek Halden Consultancy School_Travel_Final_Report.pdf http://www.dhc1.co.uk/content/School_Travel_Final_Report.pdf	Congestion around schools - Scotland
6	Existing Council Policies re Early Morning Playground Supervision (PE01583).pdf	Data relating to councils with existing early morning supervision policy in place
7	Getting it right for every child.pdf http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00458341.pdf	Policy documentation regarding child services
8	Glasgow city council - Supervision of Pupils by Janitors.pdf https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=12337&p=0	Glasgow City council supervision implementation
9	Scotlands Road Safety Framework to 2020.pdf http://www.gov.scot/resource/doc/274654/0082190.pdf	Framework for improving road safety in Scotland
10	Health Promot. Int.-2012-Alexander-Playing for Health.pdf http://heapro.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2012/08/19/heapro.das042.full	Benefits' of children's independent play opportunities
11	J Public Health-2009-Jago-Independant Play.pdf http://jpubhealth.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2009/06/08/pubmed.fdp053	Parental attitude and influence on childrens' independent activity
12	La Vigne Traffic_congestion_schools.pdf http://www.popcenter.org/problems/school_traffic/	Problem-Oriented Guide to traffic congestion around schools - US
13	Playground Supervision August N Ayrshire.pdf https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/267775/response/652241/attachment/html/3/Playground%20Supervision%20August%202014.pdf.html	North Ayrshire's playground supervision policy
14	Ramstetter, CL, Murray, R and Garner Recess in schools importance.pdf http://www.ohioactionforhealthykids.org/wp-content/documents/CrucialRoleOfRecess.pdf	The importance of unstructured, free play within the school day
15	Referenced material from introduction.pdf	References from evidence cited within the petitioner's '5 minute introduction'
16	Safe Arrival At School, Attendance and Absence Management West Lothian.pdf http://oldcoins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/document/children%27s%20services%20and%20lifelong%20learning%20committee/20060228/Safe%20Arrival	West Lothian (CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE) Introduction of supervision policy
17	Scottish Executive - Protecting Children and Young People - Framework for Standards.pdf http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/1181/0008818.pdf	Protecting children and young people in Scotland
18	Scottish Executive - School Transport Guidance Circular http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Parents/transport/transport-guidance#a2	Toolkit for local authorities summarising legislation and best practice re school transport provision
19	Supporting parental statement.pdf	A supporting statement written by an former Detective Sergeant involved with Child Protection, who is also a parent
20	Transport Scotland A Guide to Improving School Transport Safety.pdf http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/system/files/documents/guides/Improving_School_Transport_Safety_-_guide_-_final.pdf	A Guide to improving school transport within Scotland
21	West Lothian Minutes.pdf http://oldcoins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/document/children%27s%20services%20and%20lifelong%20learning%20committee/20060523/csll20060228.p	West Lothian MINUTE of MEETING of the CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LIFELONG LEARNING - Introduction of supervision policy

Data relating to Number of Early Morning Incidents at Primary Schools in Scotland *

County	Date Range	Nature of Incident									Total Incidents
		RTA	Minor Injury (slip, trip or fall from height)	Fainting	Hit by or walked into object	Horseplay /Carry On	Fracture	Bullying /Physical Assault	Wandering Off	Un- specified Accident/Injury	
Aberdeen	2012-2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Aberdeenshire		Information request denied on cost grounds									
Angus		Information unavailale - Council unable to provide consistent data for the requested time period prior to school starting									
Argyll & Bute	2007-2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	14	314	361
Clackmannshire		Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds									
Dundee		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	2009-2015	2	11	1	7	1	2	3	0	1	28
East Ayrshire	2012-2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23
East Dunbartonshire		Information unavailale - Council unable to provide consistent data for the requested time period prior to school starting									
East Lothian	2007-2015	0	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46
East Renfrewshire		Information request denied on cost grounds									

Data relating to Number of Early Morning Incidents at Primary Schools in Scotland *

County	Date Range	Nature of Incident									Total Incidents
		RTA	Minor Injury (slip, trip or fall from height)	Fainting	Hit by or walked into object	Horseplay /Carry On	Fracture	Bullying /Physical Assault	Wandering Off	Un- specified Accident/Injury	
Edinburgh City		Response overdue - no information received									
Falkirk		Request denied- information not held									
Glasgow City	2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	19
Highland	2014-2015	Information request denied on cost grounds									
Inverclyde	2000-2014	2	29		9	16	0	2	0	4	62
Midlothian		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Moray		0	90	0	0	0	0	18	3	0	111
North Ayrshire		Information unavailale - Council unable to provide consistent data for the requested time period prior to school starting									
North Lanarkshire	2014-2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Orkney	2007-2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
Perth & Kinross	2010-2015	0	183	0	0	0	0	9	6	0	198

Data relating to Number of Early Morning Incidents at Primary Schools in Scotland *

County	Date Range	Nature of Incident									Total Incidents
		RTA	Minor Injury (slip, trip or fall from height)	Fainting	Hit by or walked into object	Horseplay /Carry On	Fracture	Bullying /Physical Assault	Wandering Off	Un- specified Accident/Injury	
Renfrewshire	2010-2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Shetland		Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds									
South Ayrshire	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	45	48
South Lanarkshire	2011-2015	Unknown	6	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	6
Stirling		Information unavailale - Council unable to provide consistant data for the requested time period prior to school starting									
West Dunbartonshire		Request denied- information not held									
West Lothian	2008-2015	0	37	0	19	0	0	2	0	1	59
Total Number of Incidents:		4	403	1	35	17	2	68	25	431	980

Note: Data not truly representative due to Councils either not holding info, being relatively newly formed or refusing to provide on cost grounds. Inconsistent date range. Limited availability of resources, prevented me from following up where Councils failed to reply or refused my request.

* Incidents that have been recorded by Councils relating to the 20 minute period before school starts

Information Source: Freedom of Information Requests via WhatDoTheyKnow.com

Data relating to Early Morning Playground Supervision * at Primary Schools in Scotland

County	Policy at Council Level	Policy Set Locally at Discretion of Head Teachers	% With Either Formal Policy or Recognised Practise (see last column)	% of Children Travelling on School Transport 2014-2015	Number of Incidents/Accidents (2000-2015) **
Aberdeen	No	Yes	7%	4%	6
Aberdeenshire	No	Yes	7%	12%	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
Angus	No	Yes	Unknown	9%	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
Argyll & Bute	No	Yes	43%	18.50%	361
Clackmannshire	No	Yes	37%	Unknown	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
Dundee	Yes	No	100%	0.00%	0
Dumfries & Galloway	No	Yes	35%	11.50%	28
East Ayrshire	No	Yes	85%	6.00%	23
East Dunbartonshire	No	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
East Lothian	No. But Council supplies additional funding for extra 20 mins where majority travel on bus	Yes	31%	3.44%	46
East Renfrewshire	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	7.40%	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds

Data relating to Early Morning Playground Supervision * at Primary Schools in Scotland

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Edinburgh City	No	Yes	Unknown	1.00%	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
Falkirk	No	Yes	45%	10%	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
Glasgow City	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	0.20%	19
Highland	No	Yes	Unknown	17%	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
Inverclyde	No	Yes	100%	Unknown	62
Midlothian	No	Yes	0%	Unknown	1
Moray	No	Yes	29%	Unknown	111
North Ayrshire	Yes	No	100%	Unknown	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
North Lanarkshire	No	Yes	55%	Unknown	5
Orkney	Yes	No	100%	Unknown	11
Perth & Kinross	No	Yes	Unknown	7%	198
Renfrewshire	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	2%	2

Data relating to Early Morning Playground Supervision * at Primary Schools in Scotland

County	Policy at Council Level	Policy Set Locally at Discretion of Head Teachers	% With Either Formal Policy or Recognised Practise (see last column)	% of Children Travelling on School Transport 2014-2015	Number of Incidents/Accidents (2000-2015) **
Shetland	No	Yes	65%	38%	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
South Ayrshire	No	Yes	89%	Unknown	48
South Lanarkshire	Yes	No	100%	Unknown	6
Stirling	No	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
West Dunbartonshire	No	Yes	Unknown	2%	Information either incomplete, not held or denied on cost grounds
West Lothian	Yes	No	100%	Information incomplete	59
Total Number of Incidents:					980

* Either a PSA, classroom assistant or janitor meets pupils on arrival and monitors pupils in the playground until the start of the school day.

** Incidents that have been recorded by Councils relating to accident, injury, disappearance (pupil wandering off), bullying in the 20 min period before school starts.

Note: Date range of information held and supplied inconsistent & cannot therefore be considered truly representative of the actual number of incidents. Many Councils were also unable to or refused to response. The statistics are therefore likely in reality to be far greater.

Information Source: Freedom of Information Requests via WhatDoTheyKnow.com

Data Relating To Existing Policy Re Playground Supervision Before School at Primary Schools in Scotland (PE01583)

County	Date Implemented	Why Implemented (incident/catalyst?)	Duration of Supervision	How Implemented	How Funded
Dundee	Info requested - no response				
East Lothian (Schools with Children Arriving on Dedicated Council Transport only)	Not Known	Not Known	20 minutes prior to the start of the school day.	Not Known	East Lothian Council provides additional funding to primary schools, where the majority of pupils arrive on school transport to provide playground supervision for 20mins each morning.
North Ayrshire	Info requested - no response				
Orkney Islands	At least 20 years ago	For a long time there was (and in some schools continue to be) a disconnect between school starting time and the (average) start of the working day. As a consequence the practice of providing (limited) supervision to allow parents to drop their children at school before going to work evolved. There have been subsequent significant events that have prompted review of this and wider safety/security issues (eg Dunblane).	Varies between 15 and 45 minutes prior to start of the school day.	Varies from school to school but in general it is an auxiliary member of staff.	Currently this is built into the baseline budget for schools, so is not an additional component.
South Lanarkshire	1996	No catalyst. It has been in place since Council was formed.	08.45-08.55	Through the Council's Janitorial work plan, as part of janitorial duties.	Included as part of existing janitorial staffing costs. No additional funding is required for this provision.

County	Date Implemented	Why Implemented (incident/catalyst?)	Duration of Supervision	How Implemented	How Funded
West Lothian Council	2006	<p>See: http://oldcoins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/document/children%27s%20services%20and%20lifelong%20learning%20committee/20060523/csll20060228.pdf .</p> <p>The responsibilities of parents/carers, schools and the council with regard to attendance at school and the well-being and safety of children are set out in statute and case law. No specific duty exists to provide formal supervision either before or after the school day, but there is a general duty to take reasonable care for pupils' safety and in order to meet its duty of care the council is required to take reasonable precautions to avoid foreseeable harm (Protecting Children and Young People: Framework for Standards http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/1181/0008818.pdf).</p>	Minimum of 20 minutes prior to the start of the school day, with any provision above the minimum being delegated locally to each school	Supervision is provided by Head Teacher, staff, PSAs or Janitors.	

Information Source: Freedom of Information Requests via WhatDoTheyKnow.com