



18 February 2016

Ms Sigrid Robinson
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Dear Sigrid

— **Consideration of Petition PE1583 (on primary school playground supervision)**

Thank you for correspondence dated 2 February 2016 addressed to our former Chief Executive Rory Mair, I am responding on behalf of COSLA to the issues raised in the petition.

Firstly it should be acknowledged that the safety of pupils in and around schools is of paramount importance to schools and local authorities.

The petitioner is calling for the Scottish Government to produce national legislation and guidance to ensure playground supervision is in place 20 minutes before the start of the school day. We do have some concern that what is proposed would create a blanket provision in all schools from an arbitrary period before school starts, rather than allowing schools to decide what supervision is appropriate in their situation.

Local authorities and schools will have a number of policies and procedures in place in relation to pupil supervision and we think local circumstances need to be accounted for when making decisions about playground supervision. We would not support the call for legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the petition.

If you have further enquiries please get back in touch.

Yours sincerely

John Urquhart
Policy Officer