

PE1435/B

Minister for External Affairs and International Development

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Mr David Stewart MSP
Convenor
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear David

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1435

Thank you for your letter of 10 October regarding the above petition from Mr Nassar urging the Scottish Government to endorse the establishment of a Scottish Pakistan Youth Council and be a stakeholder in it.

I should explain that Mr Nassar wrote to the Scottish Government on 9 March this year advising that he wanted to establish a Scottish Pakistan Youth Council. Officials wrote to Mr Nassar on a number of occasions to get clarification on how the Council would be operated, financed and who the members would be. Unfortunately, these questions have not yet been answered in full.

We have made it clear to Mr Nassar that the Scottish Government welcomes this initiative to set up the Scottish Pakistan Youth Council and would be happy to work with the Council once it was established to help build further links between Scotland and Pakistan. However, until then we cannot endorse an organisation we know little about.

HUMZA YOUSAF