

PE1603/JJ

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills submission of 13 December 2018

As per the Committee's request of 16 November 2018, I am pleased to provide you with an update on progress following the publication of the Public Petitions Committee Report on PE1603: ensuring greater scrutiny, guidance and consultation on Armed Forces visits to schools in Scotland, published on 4 June and the response from the petitioners, published on 31 October.

Work is ongoing with the Scottish Government and local and national partners to explore the recommendations, taking into consideration the petitioners' comments, and to finalise a timeframe.

In response to the recommendation relating to careers information delivered in schools, employer access to schools is decided at a local level by head teachers. Officials will continue to work closely in partnership with Skills Development Scotland, who provide impartial careers information, advice and guidance in every secondary school in Scotland, to ensure that careers information delivered to young people is appropriate, challenges perceptions and supports their aspirations.

SDS continually monitor job profiling templates, used by employers on My World of Work, to ensure that they provide an accurate overview of job roles including duties and expectations.

In relation to the recommendation on data, Scottish Government officials are working with the Ministry of Defence to look at what data is available; there is dialogue on this issue.

As noted in my letter of 21 June, the Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) is a process through which officials can identify research, analyse and record the anticipated impact of any proposed law and policy on children's human rights and wellbeing and is not directly applicable to this situation. I welcome the information provided in the petitioners' response, and officials will ensure this is taken fully into consideration when determining what may be appropriate for this situation. I would expect my view on this to be finalised by Spring 2019.