

PE1581/BB

Petitioner submission of 31 August 2017

Please find detailed below our latest response to Petition PE1581. This complements the original petition (and supplementary responses) lodged with the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee.

The Scottish Government submission dated 28 June stated, “The aim is for the final strategy to be agreed and published ahead of the 2018/19 school year. The detailed timetable for the work will be developed and agreed with SLIC during the course of summer 2017.” We welcome the clarity offered by this statement and the timescale that has been put in place.

The Scottish Government statement also addresses the other main issues that we had raised previously; which organisations will be involved in the development of the strategy; how the strategy will be developed; the scope of the proposed strategy. Again, we are in agreement with what has been proposed by the Scottish Government in this regard.

We acknowledge the reference made in the Scottish Government letter that the Deputy First Minister meets representatives from COSLA and ADES regularly and we are pleased to note that he has asked officials “to ensure that the plans for the national strategy are included in discussion at an appropriate point.”

Save Scotland’s School Libraries, feel significant progress has been made in regards to the development of a National Strategy for School Libraries in Scotland and indeed, we feel there has been a significant shift in Scottish Government policy on the issue. A clear plan for the development and delivery of a strategy is in place along with an appropriate timescale. We will of course be monitoring each stage of the development and delivery of the strategy carefully and will ensure that appropriate scrutiny takes place when necessary.

We would like to put on record our thanks to both the current and previous members of the Public Petitions Committee for the support they have given the petition over the last two years.