

PE1603/O

Scottish Government Letter of 14 October 2016

Thank you for your letter of 19 September about the Scottish Parliament Petition PE01603, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that:

1. Guidance is provided on how visits to schools by the armed forces should be conducted so that information presented to children takes account of the unique nature of armed forces careers, ensures political balance, and offers a realistic representation of the role of the armed forces and what a career in the armed forces involves.
2. Information is collected to enable public monitoring of the number and location of visits, the purpose and content of visits, and comparison with the number of visits by other employers.
3. Parents/guardians are consulted as to whether they are happy for their child to take part in armed forces activities at school.

The army has a long and proud history in Scotland and is an important part of our culture and identity. It is for each school to decide whether the armed forces have a role to play in their school in terms of offering positive educational and developmental opportunities for pupils. This is entirely separate from the forces' recruitment activities.

Local authorities and schools are responsible for considering the arrangements under which any potential employer offers professional advice on career opportunities to pupils. This should be appropriate to their age and maturity and be done in a way which does not seek to exert undue or inappropriate influence.

Yours faithfully

Kate McKechnie