

**PE1603/FF**

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills submission of 5 April 2017

Thank you for your letter dated 15 March 2017 following the Public Petition Committee meeting on 2 March 2017. I read with interest the recent submissions and I noted the strength of feeling contained in these submissions.

I was particularly interested in the submission from Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on the organisation of careers events in schools and the role of Careers Information Advice and Guidance (CIAG) advisers and the My World of Work website which contains advice on Armed Forces careers.

It is important to note that SDS careers services for individuals are shaped by the Scottish Government's Career Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy and the recent refresh of the Youth Employment Strategy. These align with the recommendations of the Commission on Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), so there is a range of existing guidance to ensure that careers advice is impartial and focused upon the individual's needs. I also note that CIAG services strongly recommend to young people that they discuss their career choices with their parent or guardian.

I also recognise that responsibility for education lies with local authorities and I noted that the recent submission from North Ayrshire Council made specific reference to using the two Developing the Young Workforce School/Employer Partnerships Guidance documents for local authorities, schools and employers to help clarify the scope and purpose of any employer engagement with a school.

I can also confirm that I will be in attendance on 20 April 2017 to provide evidence to the Committee on armed forces visits to schools in Scotland.