

Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity submission of 22 May 2023

PE1896/H: Provide every primary school child in Scotland with a reusable water bottle

Thank you for your letter of 21 April relating to petition PE1896: Provide every primary school child in Scotland with a reusable water bottle, and my attendance at a Committee evidence session on 22 February 2023.

Your letter requested that I write to all of Scotland's local authorities, referring specifically to petition PE1896, seeking the following information:

- The methods of water provision in each local authority-run school (i.e. is water provided to children through single-use bottles, water fountains etc.)
- How the authority is meeting the sustainability requirements under the Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007.
- whether the authority would be interested in participating in a national procurement exercise for reusable metal water bottles, in order to benefit from economies of scale and to meet the aim of Callum's petition.

Although I attended the evidence session due to the subject matter falling within my Ministerial portfolio, these questions raised fall within the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and a response to your requests will therefore be provided by the Cabinet Secretary.

I would be happy to respond to any other relevant queries the Committee might have and would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm my support for the principle of reducing single-use plastics use in schools.

Lorna Slater MSP