

Patricia Hewitt submission of 15 March 2022

PE1927/A - Install CCTV cameras in all additional support needs schools

I have a family member who was illegally restrained and secluded in a mainstream school. Unfortunately, due to a shocking lack of understanding of the Autism Spectrum in Scotland this young man wasn't diagnosed on the Autistic Spectrum till he was eighteen years of age, a year later recognised as having the PDA profile of Autism where specific strategies must be used. The long-term effects have proved devastating.

There has been Police Involvement in the past. This young man has been degraded, humiliated and denied a childhood and education he was entitled too. Incidents like this don't go away. They remain a lifetime.

The recent teacher child abuse case in the Scottish Borders highlights exactly what parents are up against if they complain. It has taken five years, three Court Cases and an Independent Enquiry by a QC. There is NO accountability which needs to be addressed from the top by the Scottish Government.

I was extremely disappointed that Claire's previous Petition, the discussion by Ministers and who they approached for comment was a very "one sided" affair all about Teachers Rights. Surely the most important aspect is protecting the most vulnerable children in our Society and their rights?

I totally agree with Claire Mooneys Petition. CCTV would work both ways it would protect staff against inaccurate claims, provide evidence why a child / young person needs additional support and most importantly protect vulnerable children many of which are non-verbal or with learning disabilities.

I wish to submit the above comment to this Petition.