

Bob Doris MSP submission of 17 November 2022

PE1947/C: Address Scotland's Youth Culture of Youth Violence

I have recently been in communication with my constituent Mr O'Kane, who drew to my attention the current live petition in his name currently before the Scottish Parliament's Citizens Participation and Public Petitions Committee.

During our exchange Mr O'Kane suggested I provide you with the text of an email I sent him recently connected to his concerns over youth violence. As my email below confirms this has led me to correspond with the Scottish Government. However, Mr O'Kane felt the content of my email to him may be worth drawing to your attention. I promised to do so.

When Mr O'Kane raised concerns over youth violence and related statistics, I offered the following reply:

"I have read over your email below. I may not agree with your characterisation of these matters. However you have raised serious concerns and these deserve to be considered and responded to in a meaningful way. In the first instance you ask me to feedback the accounts you have raised as well as the concerns over statistics. I will ensure this happens.

"I will also be writing to the Scottish Government regarding policy in this area more generally and this will include the interaction between Government policies and independent decisions of Courts and Children's Panels. I will of course also highlight your views on the robustness of the collation of statistics and trends regarding youth crime and violence. I think you highlight the tension between trying to support young people in the community who are offending or demonstrating challenging behaviour versus when the care or justice system intervenes and removes young people from the wider community for a period of time.

"I will ensure your concerns are fed in to Government and will get back when I receive a response from Government."

