

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills submission of 28 July 2022

PE1953/A: Review Education Support staff roles

I am writing in reference to the petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review Education Support (ES) staff roles.

Education support staff pay and terms and conditions are for local government as the employer and not something Scottish Government can intervene in.

In August 2021, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party announced a Cooperation Agreement and a Shared Policy Programme, committing to cooperate on a range of policy initiatives, including a commitment to explore options for the development of an accredited qualification and registration programme for Additional Support Needs Assistants. Scottish Government are liaising with local government officials on establishing a process for realising this commitment by Autumn 2023.

The Scottish Government has established a Pupil Support Staff Working Group (PSSWG) to consider how best Scottish Government, local government and partners can empower and support pupil support staff. In September 2021 the PSSWG collaboratively developed and published a free professional learning framework for pupil support staff that is available on the Education Scotland [National Improvement Hub](#). This professional learning framework aims to establish a coherent system to ensure pupil support staff in Scotland have access to role specific professional learning to assist them to reflect on practice, gain confidence from achievements and identify areas for development.

The PSSWG are currently in the process of engaging with Pupil Support Staff and other stakeholders to seek their views on the work carried out to date and to inform future actions to support this workforce. I trust this information is helpful.