

Scottish Social Service Council submission of 20 January 2023

PE1953/E: Review Education Support staff (ESS) roles

Many thanks for your 19 December 2022 e-mail asking for the Scottish Social Services Council's (SSSC) view on [Petition PE1953: Review Education Support staff \(ESS\) roles](#). Our response focuses on the registration of ESS workers.

The SSSC

The SSSC is the regulator for the social work, social care and children and young people workforce in Scotland. We regulate workers and promote their education and training. We protect the public by registering the social work, social care and children and young people workforce, setting standards for their practice, conduct, training and education and by supporting their professional development. Where people fall below the standards of practice and conduct, we can investigate and act.

Regulation of ESS workers

The [briefing by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre](#) notes that the ESS role may refer to staff delivering learning support in the classroom, such as classroom assistants or pupil support officers. We regulate the social work, social care and children and young workforce, including some roles delivering care within, or attached to, educational settings. If it is deemed necessary to professionally regulate these workers to protect children and to raise standards, consideration should be given as to who is best placed to do so. We note the discussion about whether some of these workers should register with the General Teaching Council Scotland. We also note the [July 2022 submission by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills](#) setting out the Scottish Government's approach to supporting the ESS workforce.

I hope this is helpful. Please let me know if you require any further information.