

NASUWT submission of 4 April 2023

PE1989/C: Increase defibrillators in public spaces and workplaces

The NASUWT's submission to the Scottish Parliament Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee sets out the Union's views on the key issues which should be explored by the Committee in its scrutiny of petition PE1989: Increase defibrillators in public spaces and workplaces.

The NASUWT's evidence is informed directly by serving teacher and headteacher members and also by the work of its representative committees and consultative structures, made up of practising teachers and school leaders working in the education system.

Introduction

The NASUWT fully supports petition PE1989 and calls to the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to support the provision of defibrillators in public spaces and workplaces.

The following motion was debated and passed at our NASUWT Scotland Annual Conference on 21 May 2022:

PE TEACHERS AND DEFIBRILLATORS

In light of all the high-profile cardiac arrests in sport, Conference calls upon the Scotland Executive Council to campaign to ensure that every PE teacher is fully trained in defibrillators and that every school has one installed.

The NASUWT Scotland Conference is the main decision-making body of the Union in Scotland. It debates and determines the Union's policies to address the issues that are critical to the working lives of teachers and school leaders and the future of education in Scotland.

A number NASUWT Scotland Conference delegates pre-recorded their speech to avoid any motion being unable to be passed on the day due to unexpected COVID-related absences. We are therefore able to share the proposing speech by National Executive Member, Scott McGimpsey, in full: <https://youtu.be/v3V75J2jLNg>.

The statistics set out by Scott McGimpsey in his speech provided a context for the Scotland Conference vote in favour. Given only one in ten cardiac arrests survive outwith a clinical setting and given the decreasing odds of survival the longer an individual has to wait to have access to a defibrillator, NASUWT members voted in full support of the Scottish Government's ambition for Scotland to become a world leader in out-of-hospital cardiac arrests and for every school to have a defibrillator installed and for staff to be appropriately trained.

It is worth noting that since this motion passed in 2022, the Oliver King Foundation has successfully campaigned for all schools in England to have defibrillators. The rollout has now started, with the life-saving devices being distributed to state schools who do not already have one. According to the Department for Education, 20,000 defibrillators will be delivered to almost 18,000 state-funded schools by the end of the academic year. The devices in place in schools have already had a

substantial impact (as has recently been showcased by the BBC:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-65049384>).

The NASUWT would be happy to meet with the Committee to discuss all of these issues in more detail.