

## **PE2101/F: Provide Defibrillators for all Primary and Secondary Schools in Scotland**

### **Finlay Carson MSP written submission, 5 January 2025**

I fully appreciate that there is limited time remaining in Session 6, of the Citizen Participation & Public Petitions Committee, where they will only keep petitions open, if it is clear that they can still make substantial progress of the ask within this session.

That being considered, I think it is important that you continue to consider petition PE2101: Provide Defibrillators for all Primary and Secondary Schools in Scotland".

As you are aware I am a strong supporter of this petition, having previously visited the pupils at Troqueer Primary in my constituency of Galloway and West Dumfries.

During my time with them, I listened to their strong views and, indeed, advised them that I believed submitting a petition to be considered by the Scottish Parliament's Citizen Participation & Public Petitions Committee would, in fact, be the best way forward.

It should be noted that the children at the school have worked tirelessly in their quest that every school in Scotland has access to an Automated External Defibrillators – something that is already provided in all schools in England and Wales via funding from the UK Government.

The youngsters have looked into the availability of defibrillators in the immediate local area and were shocked and disappointed to find out how under resourced their local area was.

While there is a local defibrillator, the pupils discovered it was too far away to have a positive impact on anybody who might suffer a cardiac arrest at the school.

Can I highlight the fact that the school raised money to buy an AED, having learned about enterprise, the circulatory system and, crucially, how important these devices are.

Given all of this, I would urge the Committee to continue the petition in the meantime or, until a satisfactory outcome is reached.