

PE2170/C: Abolish the General Teaching Council for Scotland

Scottish Government written submission, 6 November 2025

Thank you for your letter to the Scottish Government after consideration of PE2170 at a meeting of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on 8 October 2025.

As set out in the Scottish Government's initial response, any changes to GTCS remit and processes would require significant changes to their underpinning legislation. In this, the Scottish Government stated that it has no intention to do so, considers the GTCS to be effective in its independent regulatory role, and does not view its abolition as either desirable or proportionate. In this context, the term "not practical or achievable" reflects a policy judgement – not a legal or procedural impossibility. This position has not changed.

We believe it is reasonable for officials to refer to GTCS when considering petitions that are publicly available and directly concern the organisation's remit. Policy officials maintain regular contact with the GTCS as part of their ongoing responsibilities, and such engagement ensures that responses are informed and accurate.

Finally, Scottish Government officials are staying in close communication with GTCS while it implements the recommendations of the PSA Report. The GTCS is an independent regulator and, therefore, it is within their remit to take forward improvement work of their processes.

Directorate for Learning