

PE2181/B: Remove teachers' ability to backdate and alter school records

Petitioner written submission, 9 October 2025

Does the Scottish Government grasp the gravity of the current situation?

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) is not a slogan — it is Scotland's longstanding national commitment to ensure that every child, young person, and their family receives the right support at the right time. Its core promise is to safeguard wellbeing and enable every child to reach their full potential.

This promise cannot be fulfilled without a reliable foundation: accurate school records. Just as the NHS depends on precise medical records to deliver safe and effective care, GIRFEC depends on truthful educational records to identify risks, coordinate support, and uphold children's rights. When school records are falsified or manipulated, this is not possible. The consequences are not abstract — they are real, measurable, and harmful.

The Petitioner has uncovered a widespread and deeply concerning practice across Scotland: teachers unlawfully falsifying school records for years to conceal failings, misconduct, or safeguarding breaches. This is not isolated, it is systemic. The consequences are severe and ongoing, with children harmed by the erosion of truth, accountability, and appropriate support.

Local authorities are not merely passive observers. Councils are aware of this misconduct and have actively protected staff engaged in it, obstructing investigations and shielding those responsible from scrutiny.

Equally alarming is the stance of the General Teaching Council for Scotland which has refused to investigate teachers caught falsifying records even when presented with clear evidence that a child has been harmed as a result of this. This failure to act undermines the integrity of Scotland's regulatory framework and signals institutional complicity.

Would the Scottish Government permit the NHS to backdate medical records or alter previously recorded information without retaining original versions? Of course not. Such a practice would violate clinical governance, compromise patient safety, and breach legal standards for data integrity.

So why is the Government prepared to tolerate this exact misconduct in education with no intervention, no oversight, and no accountability?

The Scottish Government must intervene without delay. Failure to act will not only perpetuate injustice — it will compound it by enabling it to continue. Ministers have a duty to uphold the integrity of Scotland's education system and protect children from institutional harm. Anything less is a dereliction of that duty.