

**Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on petition [PE1879](#):
Provide an accessible and professionally developed learning and teaching resource on Israel and Palestine, lodged by Hugh Humphries on behalf of Scottish Friends of Palestine**

Background

The petition is seeking a teaching resource on Israel and Palestine to be available to teachers on Glow.

Glow

[Glow](#) is an online, password protected, intranet for Scottish school education. Glow is funded by the Scottish Government and provided by Education Scotland. This learning environment is intended to provide learners and educators across Scotland with access to a wide set of innovative digital tools and resources designed to enhance learning and teaching across the whole curriculum.

Teachers' use of resources

Under Curriculum for Excellence, schools and teachers are free to develop their own curricular resources. Glow is one resource among many that teachers may access to support classroom teaching.

[Education Scotland provide guidance](#) on developing pupils' political literacy. This includes supporting practitioners to deal with controversial issues.

Israel/Palestine resource

The petition states that the Scottish Government had developed a working group with the aim of developing a resource on this topic. The resource was subsequently withdrawn from Glow.

The petition also notes that there have been a number of freedom of information requests sent to the Scottish Government on this topic. An FOI response [dated 6 July 2021 includes a briefing](#) for the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. This states:

“In 2017, the Deputy First Minister and, then, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills met with representatives of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) and the Scottish Friends of Israel (SFI) regarding a resource which had been uploaded to the Glasgow and Clyde Rights-Based Learning Group blog on Glow.

“The resource proved to be controversial and was removed from Glow. The Deputy First Minister agreed that Education Scotland, after inviting appropriate stakeholders for consultation and input, would explore the development of an alternative resource. Work continued through to mid-2018. However, there continued to be disagreement between stakeholders as to the content of the resource.

“Given the absence of agreement between stakeholders, Education Scotland concluded that it would not be appropriate to publish the original resource developed by the Glasgow and Clyde Rights-Based Learning Group. As an alternative, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), involved in a consultative capacity throughout the process, offered to publish the resource. This was agreed to in June 2018 and the resource has remained on the EIS website since ([Palestine and Israel, Understanding the Conflict \(eis.org.uk\)](#)).”

The EIS website also provides more information on how the original resource was developed.

This resource has also been the subject of written questions. For example, [S5W-19745](#) answered in November 2018.

Key Organisations and relevant links

Scottish Government

Education Scotland

Association of Directors of Education Scotland

EIS

Ned Sharratt
Senior Researcher
11/08/2021

SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at spice@parliament.scot

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in petition briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe),
an office of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, The
Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP