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Stephen Kerr
Convener
Education, Children and Young People
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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19 May 2022

Dear Convener

I indicated within the recent Parliamentary Debate on Reducing the Cost of the School Day for Low Income Families that I intended to bring forward a national consultation to inform the further development of school uniform policy and guidance in Scotland.

I am pleased to inform the Committee that the consultation has been published. It seeks the views of anyone with an interest in school uniform; families, education authorities, schools, suppliers, organisations and individuals in support of the development of a new national policy and guidance. The consultation will run from 19 May until 14 October 2022. This extended consultation period recognises the school holiday period and that this is also a time when many families will be buying uniform for the next school year. The consultation is available from [Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/citizen-space/consultation/school-uniform).

I also confirm that the following matters are not within the scope of the consultation. It is not intended that the school uniform items will be mandated at national levels. Instead it is intended that the national guidance will inform local authorities and schools policies.

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It is not intended that there will be a national school uniform policy which is applied in all schools – therefore this is not the subject of this consultation and is not in the scope of the consultation. Further, it is not intended that school uniform in Scotland will be abolished. Therefore, that is also not within the scope of the consultation.

The consultation is directly linked to our work on reducing the cost of the school day. We have already, in partnership with local authorities, delivered on our commitment to increase the level of school clothing grant in Scotland, increasing this vital support to at least £120 for primary school pupils and £150 for secondary school pupils. This was in place for the start of the new school year in 2021. We have further committed, as part of the Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party - Shared Policy Programme, to bring forward national statutory guidance on school uniform in Scotland. The consultation is an important first step in delivering that shared aim.

You may be aware that the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee have recently considered PE1914: Ban school uniforms in secondary schools. I have therefore written to the Committee to draw their attention to this consultation also.

Yours sincerely

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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