

PE1623/K

COSLA Letter of 5 December 2016

Thank you for your letter dated 25 November 2016 inviting COSLA to provide our views in relation to the above petition.

The Education, Children and Young People Executive Group at COSLA have discussed this very matter recently. COSLA officers sought views from our member councils in relation to the participation of religious representatives on local authority education committees.

During the discussion at this meeting, our members reflected on their experiences of working alongside religious representatives and other community representatives during meetings of education and children's services committees. It was clear that our members did not feel that these non-elected representatives had the power to change decisions made by elected members nor did they feel lobbied by these representatives on behalf of their organisations.

As the Scottish Government undertake their consultation into wider Education Governance, it will be interesting for all stakeholders to consider the many opportunities open to community representatives to play a part in the consideration of education services.