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[PE1548: National Guidance on Seclusion and Restraint in Schools](#)
[PE1692: Inquiry into the human rights impact of GIRFEC policy and data processing](#)

Thank you for your letter of 6 May 2022. I am pleased to provide Committee with an update on the progress made in relation to the petitions noted above.

[PE1548: National Guidance on Seclusion and Restraint in Schools](#)

As you indicate in your correspondence, the Scottish Government set up a working group to develop new, human rights-based, non-statutory guidance to minimise the use of restraint in schools. This new guidance will replace existing advice provided within Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2: Preventing and Managing School Exclusions ([Supporting documents - Included, engaged and involved part 2: preventing and managing school exclusions - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)).

As the Committee is aware, the physical intervention working group began work on the new guidance in January 2020. Progress was affected by members' focus on the Covid-19 response. However, following the last meeting of the working group on 23 November 2021, group members agreed that the draft guidance can be put to public consultation.

The Scottish Government is currently preparing this consultation for publication. It is anticipated that the consultation will launch prior to the end of the school year in June and will run for an extended period of 18 weeks. This is intended to provide all those who wish to contribute, with the opportunity to do so. I will update Committee once the publication date has been finalised.

Details of the membership and notes of the meetings of the physical intervention working group are available on the Scottish Government's website: [Physical Intervention Working Group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#).

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PE1692: Inquiry into the human rights impact of GIRFEC policy and data processing

The Scottish Government remains fully committed to the delivery and continued development of GIRFEC and the national practice model.

The refreshed materials, including the statutory guidance for the Assessment of Wellbeing, were co-produced by working groups including practitioners from relevant sectors, and the statutory guidance on the Assessment of Wellbeing was subject to a public consultation. The remaining documents, including the role of the named person and information sharing, were subject to direct engagement with key stakeholders.

An independent analysis report of the consultation responses is expected imminently, at which point consideration will be given to any necessary changes to the materials ahead of final publication later this year.

I hope the committee finds the response helpful.

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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