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Our ref: Consultation on school uniform

1 July 2023

Dear Convener,

I refer the Committee to the letter from the previous Cabinet Secretary, dated 19 May 2022, which informed the Committee of the publication of the public consultation on school uniform.

I am pleased to update the Committee and inform you that the analysis report of the public consultation on school uniform has now been published. It is available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781805259442>

The consultation ran from 19 May until 14 October 2022. A total of 2,751 responses were received. Individuals submitted 2,670 responses whilst 81 were submitted by organisations. There were a wide range of organisations represented with responses from local authorities; individual schools; school uniform banks; anti-poverty campaign groups; the independent school sector; school uniform suppliers; third sector organisations and pupil and parent councils. All responses where consent was given, have been published. The responses are available at: [School uniforms in Scotland - Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/consultation/govspace/2022/05/19/school-uniforms-in-scotland-scottish-government-citizen-space).

I also draw the Committee's attention to the report from the Children's Parliament on their engagement with children on matters related to school uniform. This is available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781805259442/>

As the Committee are aware, the consultation is directly linked to work to reduce 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. In the 2023/24 financial year, the Scottish Government has provided local authorities with increased funding of £13m to maintain the school clothing grant in line with increased inflation costs.

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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.

A working group has been established to support development of the guidance. The working group includes representation from a range of organisations, including Scottish Government, Local Government, children and young people, parents and carers, professionals, school wear representatives and relevant interest groups.

The issues highlighted by the consultation and through the engagement with children and young people will be given careful consideration by the working group. Evidence from the consultations, alongside other relevant evidence, will directly support the development of national guidance on school uniform, seeking to address issues that are important for children and young people, parents and carers, schools, local authorities and other stakeholders. I am happy to keep the Committee updated as this work progresses.

I hope that this information is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

JENNY GILRUTH

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