

COSLA submission of 6 April 2023

PE1991/I: Develop an educational resource on abortion

Thank you for your letter of 8th March 2023 inviting COSLA to address the issues raised in the petition relating to creating an educational resource on abortion and make it available to all secondary schools in Scotland.

The Curriculum for Excellence is clear that teachers, schools and local authorities have the flexibility to design a curriculum that fits their own local context and needs of the children and young people they are educating. Therefore, there is therefore no mechanism where all schools would be compelled to use any specific materials.

We continue to be supportive of partners across the education system working together to creating high-quality resources to support teachers, schools and local authorities in the delivery of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) education, whilst they retain their responsibility to design and deliver a curriculum that meets the needs of their local children, young people and communities.

We are aware there are some existing educational resources which are linked to the ask within this petition. A range of [materials](#) to support RSHP education was developed by health boards and local authorities to support teachers and schools on these issues, including abortion. The Scottish Government recently published a new leaflet on [Pregnancy and parenthood while you are in school or education](#), which contains guidance for young people. Education Scotland have a range of [materials](#) to support RSHP, and specific resources for [abortion](#).

We hope this letter is helpful to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee in its consideration of the petition.