

Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on petition [PE1991](#): ‘Develop an educational resource on abortion’, lodged by Gemma Clark

Brief overview of issues raised by the petition

The petition is asking that Education Scotland develop “a health focused and stigma challenging educational resource on abortion”.

Under the Curriculum for Excellence, teachers and schools are expected to develop the curricula that are learned and experienced in the classrooms. In developing their curriculum, teachers are expected to: apply their professional knowledge and skills; be aware of statutory duties and guidance; use the Curriculum for Excellence’s [experiences and outcomes](#) to plan learning, and benchmarks to understand their learners’ progress; work collaboratively with colleagues.

Teachers will use a variety of resources to support their planning and delivery of learning in classrooms.

Education Scotland is an executive agency which aims to support quality and improvement in Scottish education. It does produce resources which schools may choose to use in the classroom, and it also hosts the sharing of resources on GLOW.

Abortion is likely to be considered in the context of relationships, sexual health and parenthood education (RSHP). In [September 2019, the Scottish Government launched](#) an online resource covering this area of education, <https://rshp.scot/>.

This resource includes activity plans and slides to support education about [abortion aimed at lower secondary pupils](#). Teachers and schools are free to use their professional judgement whether to use resources from <https://rshp.scot> or indeed another source.

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6 January 2023

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public.

However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at spice@parliament.scot

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Published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), an office of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP