



## Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

**Petition Number:** [PE1256](#)

**Main Petitioner:** Jack Ferrie

**Subject:** Sports facilities in primary schools

Calls on the Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide additional targeted funding to ensure that all primary schools have access to appropriate all weather sport facilities to encourage an active healthy lifestyle from an early age.

### Background

Along with almost all education funding, funding for school buildings repair and improvement is not 'ring fenced'. Local authorities receive capital allocations through the Scottish Budget and can spend this on any capital project. Under the Concordat between the Scottish Government and local authorities, the Government has reduced the number of ring fenced funds.

### Scottish Government Action

The Active Schools Network aims to increase opportunities for all children and young people to be engaged in physical activity and sport and to strengthen pathways to participation and performance through sustainable school to community links.

The [School Estates Strategy](#) (2006) is currently being revised. The current version states that:

"Schools should provide facilities for sporting and cultural use to meet school, and where appropriate, community needs."

### Scottish Parliament Action

The Health Committee has recently undertaken an inquiry into school sports..."Pathways into Sport". As part of this inquiry they have taken evidence from HMle who told them that:

"In the context of physical education, if we felt that facilities were not at a standard that allowed the physical education curriculum to be delivered as well as it could be, we would certainly look to highlight that and to engage in a discussion about it with staff in the school and the local authority." OR 21 January [Col 1421](#)

In addition, Chris Wood of the Association for Physical Education in Scotland told the Health Committee that:

“Facilities in primary schools is a live issue. In general, a primary school has a gym, but it might be a multipurpose space—it might be the dining hall and the venue for visitors and for the holding of assemblies. Its use for those other purposes eats into the time for curriculum PE.” OR 21 January col 1438.

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