



T: 0131-244 6220
E: jennifer.staermose-johnson@gov.scot

Mr Brian Porter
Head of Resources
Care & Learning
The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

6 May 2020

Dear Mr Porter,

**SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010: HIGHLAND COUNCIL –
STOER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I refer to your letter of 13 March 2020 notifying Scottish Ministers of Highland Council's decision of 12 March 2020 to implement the proposal to close Stoer Primary School. Ministers have considered this proposal in line with the requirements set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act").

Under section 17 of the 2010 Act, Ministers may only issue a call-in notice if it appears to them that the education authority may have failed:

- (a) in a significant regard to comply with the requirements imposed on it by (or under) the Act so far as they are relevant in relation to the closure proposal, or
- (b) to take proper account of a material consideration relevant to its decision to implement the proposal.

Section 15(2) of the 2010 Act requires an education authority to provide a copy of the proposal paper and the consultation report prepared under the Act to Ministers when notifying them of a closure proposal.

Section 15(4) of the 2010 Act requires Ministers to take into account any relevant representations made to them by any person during the 3 week period from the date that a closure decision is made. In relation to this closure proposal, the 3 week period began on 12 March 2020 and expired on 1 April 2020. A total of 2 representations were received within this timeframe.

I note that, in response to Education Scotland's report, the Council has undertaken to encourage continued growth in the links between Stoer and Lochinver Primary, and that it



will be important for the Council to ensure these links are developed and embedded following the closure of Stoer Primary School.

Having reviewed the documents provided by Highland Council under section 15(2) and considered all relevant representations made under section 15(4), Ministers consider that Highland Council has fulfilled its obligations under the 2010 Act and do not intend to issue a call-in notice for this proposal.

Highland Council may now implement its decision to close Stoer Primary School in line with the timescales set out in its proposal paper.

Yours sincerely,

JENNIFER STAERMOSE-JOHNSON
School Funding, Infrastructure and Organisation Unit
Learning Directorate