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Diocese of Dunkeld

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May 23, 2005

Parental Involvement Bill Consultation,
Scottish Executive Education Department,
Schools Division,
Area 2-B North,
Victoria Quay,
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ.

Dear Sir,

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT BILL CONSULTATION

I enclose a response from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld on "Making the Difference – Improving Parents' Involvement in Schools".

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Rev. Vincent Logan,
Bishop of Dunkeld.

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE IMPROVING PARENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

RESPONSE FROM THE DIOCESE OF DUNKELD

The Diocese of Dunkeld wishes to take the opportunity offered to respond to the above consultation.

The Diocese of Dunkeld comprises the City of Dundee, the counties of Angus, Clackmannanshire, Kinross and Perthshire and parts of Fife and Stirling.

Within the Diocese of Dunkeld there are 4 Catholic Secondary Schools, three in Dundee City and one in Perth and Kinross, one independent school. Children also access secondary education in two schools in Fife and one in Stirling. There are 22 Primary schools in the Diocese, 12 in Dundee City, 4 in Perth and Kinross, two in Fife, two in Clackmannan and two in Angus.

PARENTS FORUMS

This proposal removes the current provision whereby the Church has a right to be represented by a co-opted member when the School Board of a Catholic School chooses to co-opt members.

WE OBJECT TO THIS PROPOSAL AS A WEAKENING OF OUR STATUTORY RIGHTS

The Draft Bill proposes that only members, or people that forum has chosen to invite, have the right to attend forum meetings. This could mean that Head Teachers and members of staff could only attend if invited. This would remove the current provision in law where the Head Teacher is expected to attend as 'adviser' to the Board.

WE OBJECT TO THIS PROPOSAL AS IT COULD LEAD TO A DANGEROUS GAP IN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT.

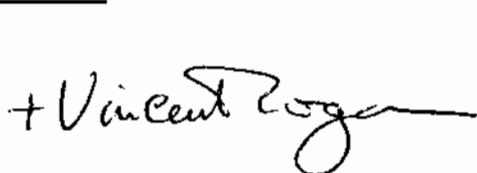
The proposal for parents in clusters to have one forum to represent all interests may have an adverse effect on how an individual schools is enabled to develop. Parents from a particular school could dominate a Parent's Forum and could exercise a strong influence on schools where they have no children on the roll.

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WE OBJECT TO THIS AS IT COULD LEAD SOME CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN SOME AREAS OF THE DIOCESE BEING ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

The Draft Bill sets out to modernise the appointments system for head teachers and deputy head teachers. No new central system is prescribed, only the requirement that an education authority informs ministers and parent forums about its procedures and involves parents forums in the appointment process. This could mean that each local authority could have very different procedures.

WHILE IT IS HARD TO DENY THAT CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS ARE OFTEN INADEQUATE, THE LACK OF DETAIL ON THIS SPECIFIC PROPOSAL IS A SIGNIFICANT CONCERN THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED. WE FEEL THAT THERE SHOULD BE A REQUIREMENT THAT EDUCATION AUTHORITIES SEEK THE AGREEMENT OF PARENTS FORUMS FOR ANY NEW ARRANGEMENTS THEY SET IN PLACE.



Rt Rev Vincent Logan
Bishop of Dunkeld

Rev Kenneth McCaffrey
Director of Religious Education

20TH May 2005

respondee information form

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name: RT REV VINCENT LOGAN

Postal Address: DIocese OF DUNKED

DIOCESAN OFFICE

24-25 LAWSIDE ROAD, DUNDEE DD2 6XY

Consultation title: **Making the difference - Improving parents' involvement in schools**

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

(a) an individual? (go to 2a/b)

(b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation? (go to 2c)

2a. INDIVIDUALS:

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

Yes (go to 2b below)

No, not at all

2b. Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address



2c. ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

Your name and address as respondees **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

Yes

No

3. SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the SE to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

No