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# respondee information form

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

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DUMFRIES

DG1 3HT

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

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02 June 2005

Parental Involvement Bill Consultation  
Scottish Executive Education Department  
Schools Division  
Area 2 – B North  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Dear Sirs

**Parental Involvement Bill Consultation**

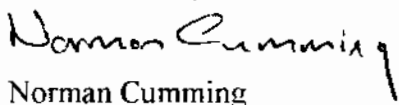
I am writing as a parent member of a School Board, being a member for two years when the legislation was first introduced, and again since 2003 with my last child at school. The proposal to weaken parent involvement in school management, which is minimal at present, is very discouraging. The education of my child is my responsibility. The state is my agent; if the state made no educational provision, or inadequate provision, that would not relieve me of my responsibility.

The following points are of particular concern:

- The lack of definition to Parent Forums encourages vagueness. There is no requirement for parents to be in the majority. The lack of an election process may result in the perpetuation of a narrow interest pressure group. The current statutory basis to School Boards means that members are accountable for their actions.
- The current requirement of agenda setting and minute taking also has the result of members being accountable. This feature will be lost.
- A Parent Forum will not help the process of communication; in fact the loss of the requirement of the local education department to respond to questions from School Boards will impede communication. In my experience, this is a vital component of the existing School Board legislation.
- Headteachers must have the right to attend all meetings.
- Parents must continue to be an integral part of the appointment process for senior school management, even though that process is revised. Having recently spent many hours over a number of days, along with two other parent members, in the appointment of a new headteacher, I believe that the current shared responsibility for appointment must continue.

Your proposals of 'flexibility' will not strengthen parent involvement; the proposals will increase the powers of local authorities and reduce the power of parents. In summary, I am unable to see any benefit to our children by weakening the present School Board arrangements, with proposals which are vague and undefined. You should be examining ways of strengthening School Boards.

Yours sincerely

  
Norman Cumming