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INDIVIDUAL

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From: Mailer-Daemon@scotland.gov.uk [mailto:Mailer-Daemon@scotland.gov.uk]

Sent: 07 June 2005 14:22

To: Parental Involvement Bill

Subject: 855

Response from the Parentzone - Parental Involvement questionnaire

Name: gordon fairweather

Responding as: An individual

Individual: Yes

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

Behalf of groups: Yes

Sharing responses / future engagement: Yes

Question 1: No. Authorities already do this in regard to School Boards and do so effectively and efficiently. Nothing suggested here will enhance what is already being done.

Question 2: No. Again local Authorities already have robust policies in place for parental involvement and this implies that they are not doing so.

Question 3: Yes

Question 4: No. School Boards have made a huge contribution since their inception and have evolved over time adapting to changing circumstances to ensure their role is effective. Whilst I accept the legislation is not perfect (what is) it could be 'tweaked' as was originally indicated by the Executive to make it better. This will be best achieved by amending the 1988 Act which has not had any major changes to it since its inception and is therefore suitable for amendment contrary to what the Executive state the draughtsmen say. To allow individual bodies the freedom to determine their own structure will lead to chaos and a complete lack of consistency and direction.

Question 5: No. There must be a prescribed means of appointment by a more simplified and localised election procedure. ELECTIONS must be mandatory to give the body democratic status and make those elected accountable to their parent body.

Question 6: No. This question is couched in such a way that if you answer in the affirmative then you signal your agreement with the establishment of Parents Fora. According to reports the vast majority of parents are against repeal of the 1988 Act. Education authorities already carry out this function in support of School Boards and there is no reason to change that.

Question 7: No. The whole point of Boards and I assume Fora is to promote links between parents and their childrens school and this suggestion makes a nonsense of that premise.

Question 8: No. School Boards should remain as constituted by the 1988 Act as amended.

Question 9: No. I am not in favour of repeal of the 1988 Act. If you allow individual bodies to determine how they conduct business Education Authorities would not be able to cope with several different practices which would lead to chaos and confusion. Very bad idea!

Question 10: No. The present makeup of School Boards is ideal. I would agree however that the numbers involved do not require to be so regimented. It is essential however that parents remain in the majority and that the Headteacher must be involved as at present.

Question 11: status-quo

Question 12: Yes

Question 13: As per the School Boards (Scotland) Act 1988

Question 14: Enhancement of those functions conferred by the School Boards (Scotland) Act 1988 is my preferred option.

Question 15: School Boards are already obliged under the Act to do this and that obligation should continue.

Question 16: Present arrangements for School Boards to continue.

Question 17: these are obligations already contained in the 1988 Act and Authorities are already obliged and fulfilling same.

Question 18: Only in the context of financing School Boards as I do not recognise the need to abolish School Boards.

Question 19: Again this is a basic right in any case and Authorities already discharge this duty.

Question 20: Authorities should be allowed to adapt working practices in relation to this but always maintaining the status currently enjoyed by School Board members in the process with no diminishment of their role.

Question 21: see above

Question 22: robust procedures are already in place under existing arrangements.

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