

PE1709/D

Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association submission of 21 December 2018

The SSTA is pleased to make a contribution to this Petition. At the SSTA Congress in May 2018 the following Motion was passed

The Use of CCTV in Schools

“The Association accepts that Surveillance CCTV improves the safety and security of the School building. The use of it however throws up other issues pertaining to the use of Surveillance CCTV within the classroom. The Association calls on all Local Authorities to ensure that such technologies are not to be used to gather data for performance management purposes or capability procedures”.

As highlighted the Association views CCTV cameras as a necessary and supportive tool in the security of school/educational environments but there needs to be serious consideration of all aspects of their use.

CCTV cameras cannot be a replacement for the range of educational staff but as an added technological advancement in addition to staff in making schools a place of safety for both pupils and staff. It is necessary that local authorities have agreed policies on the use and implication of CCTV cameras.

There are data protection issues and human rights issues for both young people and educational and support staff which need to be addressed before the introduction of CCTV cameras.

Unfortunately, there are inconsistencies across and within local authorities in the reporting of incidents which leaves staff vulnerable. There is a culture of suppressing the number of incidents in schools and local authorities. This is to mask the image, the lack of resource and commitment to address the challenging environments that pupils and staff are working.

There is a lack of training of staff and hence a lack of clarity as to when and where they are acting with support of their employer or not.