

**P-04-516 Make political science compulsory in education –  
Correspondence from Petitioner to Clerking Team, 12.01.14**

Dear kayleigh ,

Thanks for your email and the opportunity to respond  
to the minister's submission .

i would like the following points in response considered :-

Mr lewis states that politics is part of the non-statutory part of the  
PSE , obviously making this important subject an irrelevant addition  
that most schools choose to ignore !

I have two children who both have never had lessons covering  
the uk constitution or the democratic process here etc ...  
the only mildly political discourse they appear to have experienced  
is inadvertently through history or the very unbalanced jubilee  
celebrations of 2012.

With young person's electoral voting hitting serious lows { 39%  
in 2001 - as per electoral commission 2002} , poor political  
awareness and engagement is seriously highlighted as is the undermined  
democratic  
process . voting participation has been in the low 60% for over a decade ,  
whereas previously it was around 70 -80 % .

I work for a youth organisation and this has alerted to me  
the poor political knowledge of young adults who increasingly  
feel marginalised and powerless due to their ignorance  
of the political process . their frustration unfortunately leads  
to choices that may not occur if they were better informed  
of alternative `avenues' . i hope the minister's curriculum  
review will seriously consider some sort of political science  
which will aid youngsters in their development ...

Regards  
Mark griffiths