

**P-05-862 Tackling school bullying, Correspondence – Petitioner to Chair,
18.03.19**

Dear Sir,

Thank you for forwarding me the prompt and efficient response from the Education Minister.

Whilst a lot of work has gone into the study/consultation I would like to make the following observations:-

1/ The current review is only going to result in recommendations and guidance for schools to adopt. Current shortcomings within schools make it obvious that guidelines and recommendations are simply not enough. An across the board, standard framework must be implemented and be legally binding.

2/ The suggestion that schools and parents should report areas of bullying to the police when the act involves an illegal act. Evidence to date suggests that schools do not do this and discourage parents from doing so. In some cases parents and pupils have been heavily discriminated for taking action 'outside' the schools internal procedure.

3/ Many schools are not recording bullying as such for fear of damaging their reputations or league standing. This results in victims suffering repeatedly as action is not being taken to address their bullying.

4/ Whilst the new 'recommendations' are very well intended and the result of much studying, it is felt that until a standard framework is set (a same for all policy) with a legal requirement to record, educate, support and deal with escalating issues victims will continue to suffer whilst bullies continue to operate.

Bullying needs tackling, lives are being ruined even lost, a new approach is required - sooner rather than later.

Regards

Byron John

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