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Stuart Easingwood  
Interim Service Director of Children and Young  
People  
Scottish Borders Council  
Council Headquarters  
Newtown St. Boswells  
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22 October 2019

Dear Mr Easingwood,

**SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010: SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL  
–ETTRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

I refer to your email of 29 August 2019 notifying Scottish Ministers of Scottish Borders Council's decision of 29 August 2019 to implement the proposal to close Ettrick Primary School.

A three week period began on 29 August 2019 for any person to make a representation to Scottish Ministers requesting that the decision should (or should not) be called in by them for further investigation (as provided for by section 15(4) of the 2010 Act). That period expired on 18 September 2019 and no representations were received.

Under section 17 of the 2010 Act, the Scottish Ministers may only issue a call-in notice if it appears to them that the education authority may have failed:

- (a) in a significant regard to comply with the requirements imposed on it by (or under) this Act so far as they are relevant in relation to the closure proposal, or
- (b) to take proper account of a material consideration relevant to its decision to implement the proposal.

Having reviewed Scottish Borders Council's Proposal Paper and Consultation Report, the Scottish Ministers consider that Scottish Borders Council has fulfilled its obligations under the 2010 Act and consequently have decided not to issue a call-in notice for this proposal.

Education Scotland's Report noted that the Council would need to provide reassurance to parents of its long term commitment to small rural schools and that it will continue to work with the Kirkhope Primary School and Yarrow Primary School communities to secure a viable future for those schools. It would also need to reassure parents and staff on school transport arrangements during winter conditions.

The Council indicated in its Consultation Report that it would continue to engage with parents and staff regarding school transport arrangements during winter conditions, and its current School Estate Review prioritises working with schools with small pupil rolls to identify and implement strategies to sustain these schools. It is important that this work is continued and developed as part of the Council's plans.

Scottish Borders Council may now implement its decision to close Ettrick Primary School in line with the timescales set out in its proposal paper.

Yours sincerely,



**Jerry O'Connell**  
**WIR: School Funding, Infrastructure and Organisation**