

**Deputy Presiding Officer
The Scottish Parliament**



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Parliament**

Trish Godman MSP

Mr Gerry McKinstry Parent Council Rep
Gryffe High School
Bridge of Weir Road
Houston
PA6 3NB

25th February 2009

Dear Mr Gerry McKinstry Parent Council Rep

I am writing regarding Renfrewshire Council's recent budget, which imposed a further £2.5 million 'savings' in education for next year (09/10). This is in addition to the £4.5 million of 'savings' in the council budget over this year (08/09).

Renfrewshire secondary schools have already borne the sharpest cuts in teacher numbers proportionately across Scotland. Now I have learned 28 more teachers, 8 classroom assistants, 7 instrument instructors, 10 school secretaries and all foreign language assistants will go.

These are 'made in Renfrewshire cuts' and they should cease. The Education Secretary Fiona Hyslop MSP told the Parliament within the last month: "Sufficient funding has been provided to local government to maintain teacher numbers at 2007 levels." However, the Council are planning to axe a further 81 education posts. This year alone 119 teachers' posts have already gone and many more will go next year.

The Council has received over £10 million extra from the Scottish Government for next year so it is wrong to force through these cuts which will make local people redundant at a time of rising unemployment.

I believe it is wrong that the Council plans to cut 81 more posts in the coming year. No wonder this was not made clear in last week's budget papers. People have a right to know what is planned.

I am launching a petition to ask the Council to think again. If there is extra cash for council offices, senior managers pay awards and building up balances, there should be cash for retaining teachers and classroom assistants.

If you have any concerns about these cuts please e mail me at trish.godman.msp@scottish.parliament.uk. If you would like further details or copies of my petition against these education cuts please e mail me your name and address and I will post them on.

Yours sincerely

**TRISH GODMAN MSP
West Renfrewshire**

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