

## Public Question – Mr M Gunn

To the Leader of the Council

**“Since November 2020 Nairn Academy has had vacancies in Pupil Support Assistant roles, with 3 such PSA posts still vacant as of June 2021 because Highland Council has refused to allow the positions to be advertised and filled. These funded posts were left gapped due to the application of a Council corporate policy, but it was self-evident that these vital positions were desperately needed as pupils returned to schooling after the worst disruption to education in living memory. Could the Highland Council therefore please explain what - if any - assessment was undertaken to determine the impact upon pupils at Nairn Academy of having such a large number of PSA positions gapped in the period November 2020 until present.**

**Please note that I am the Chair of the Parent Council at Nairn Academy”.**

*The Highland Council are currently reviewing allocations of support to the 29 associated school groups across the authority in order to have an equitable approach to distribution of resources and staff. This is expected to be implemented in October and will take into account covid mitigation. During this time we aim to maintain staffing levels as at Term 3 (Jan-Easter) until the implementation of ASG distribution.*

*Headteachers assess the needs of children and young people in our schools, in line with the Highland Practice Model. Currently, allocation of resources is based on the levels of need entered into SEEMis by schools themselves.*

*At Nairn Academy, provision has been made for employment of staff up to October to support the needs identified, after which the new model of ASG resourcing will be in place including any mitigation.*