

(3) Mrs I MacKenzie

To the Chair of the Education Committee

How many vacant PSA posts are there in each Highland ASG as of the end of the August to October term?

There are only 4 ASGs in Highland where there are PSA vacancies which take them under their approved allocation. Inverness High School ASG, Millburn Academy ASG, Gairloch High School ASG, and Thurso High School ASG. In the case of Thurso and Inverness High ASGs, most of the vacancies have arisen because additional need has been identified as a consequence of the harms of Covid and so approval has been given to increase the allocation and recruit to additional posts and these are in the process of being filled as soon as possible after the October holidays. During the period August-October 14 vacancies were recruited to across a number of ASGs so we are confident that these vacancies will be filled.

It is important to note that vacancies are a very fluid aspect of school PSA staffing as schools are always responding to both staffing changes linked to personal circumstances of staff alongside the changing picture of needs to support pupils which can change owing to a range of circumstances such as family moves or additional needs arising.