



# **PRESS RELEASE** from **WENDY ALEXANDER MSP**

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Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

## **COUNCIL LEARNED NOTHING AS MORE TEACHER CUTS PLANNED**

**- DOUBLE WHAMMY AS LOSS OF TEACHERS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY -**

**Yesterday official government statistics (1) revealed Renfrewshire axed 122 teachers last year – the third largest cut in Scotland after much larger councils Glasgow and Aberdeen.**

**Today, further new figures obtained from the Scottish Parliament by Wendy Alexander (2) on the relative cut in teacher numbers in each council area reveals the true extent of the Renfrewshire cuts. Renfrewshire is one of just three councils to have cut 7% of its teachers in just one year. This is a double whammy for Renfrewshire.**

**Teacher numbers in Renfrewshire are falling faster than school rolls and pupil teacher ratios are now rising again.**

Wendy hit out:

“Overall Renfrewshire is in the top 3 in both total teacher losses and in teachers axed in percentage terms in all Scotland. This is a dreadful double whammy – a real blow to parents, pupils and teachers.

In just one year the SNP have destroyed all progress made by Labour on teacher numbers in Renfrewshire in recent years. When the SNP came to power Labour had left 1792 teachers in post – that is now just 1707. (3) Over the last year Renfrewshire has lost at least 2 teachers every single week.

Worse still the SNP led Council have appeared to learn nothing from their awful track record. Not only have they axed 122 teachers this year, they plan to get rid of at least another 28 teachers in the next year and force many nursery teachers to redeploy or go. These cuts are hitting children’s education and destroying morale.”

One local Renfrewshire teacher looking for a job told Wendy:

*"I changed from being qualified in Environmental Biology to teaching as there was supposed to be a job once you had qualified or so you were led to believe. I am now working part time in a pub and wondering what was the point of going to University at all."*

Wendy said:

"In both this year's budget and next year's budget the SNP led Council have chosen to deprive Renfrewshire's education service of its fair share of Scottish Government monies and this is the result.

The total number of pupils in Renfrewshire is still falling as it has been for 10 years. But the SNP are cutting teacher numbers faster than pupil numbers are falling. The result is that average class sizes are **up** in both primary schools and secondary schools in Renfrewshire this year – having consistently fallen when Labour was in charge."