



PRESS RELEASE

from

WENDY ALEXANDER MSP

WHAT THE BUDGET FAILED TO SAY - EDUCATION CUTS TO AXE 81 POSTS -

**28 TEACHERS, 7 INSTRUMENT INSTRUCTORS, 8 CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS,
7 FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS, 10 SCHOOL SECRETARIES**

Renfrewshire Council's budget last week 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), whose full affect from April will be £6 million (09/10).

Wendy hit out

"It is a disgrace that the council plans to slash 81 posts in the coming year. No wonder this was not revealed in last week's budget papers. But people have the right to know what is planned.

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

These are "made in Renfrewshire cuts" and they should cease. Scotland's Schools Secretary Fiona Hyslop has made clear to Parliament the cash is there to maintain teacher numbers next year so why are the local SNP in Renfrewshire planning to axe 81 education posts. This year alone 119 teachers' posts have already gone – now I have learned many more will go next year. This totals 200 since year 07/08 – nearly 150 of those are teachers.

I am calling on the Council to reverse the cuts in teacher numbers. Parents, pupils, teachers do not want these cuts. The council should come clean about these plans and put them out for consultation. Are the council willing to listen to the views of parents and pupils?

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.

There are many inside the Council who oppose these cuts – that is why I have obtained details on where the axe will fall.

Why were the SNP so keen to hide the details of where the axe would fall? The plans I am releasing today reveal:

On Teacher Numbers – “there will be a reduction in the teacher entitlement for all Renfrewshire schools”

On Additional Support Teachers – “the change ... would be seen publicly as a service cut”

On Classroom Assistants – “this would remove approximately 350 hours of classroom assistant time – at school level – approximately 5.5 hours of classroom assistant time per week.”

Music Tuition – “once per week tuition is amended to once per fortnight”

Foreign Language Assistants – “removal of modern language assistants and part time modern language teacher support in primary schools”

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 pet projects there should be cash for retaining teachers and classroom assistants”.

WHERE THE EDUCATION CUTS REALLY FALL:

Number of Posts Cut	Description	What the budget said
9.5	Secondary Teachers	Staff saving in secondary schools
8	Primary Teachers	Staff saving in primary schools
10	Teachers specialising in learning support	Reallocation of peripatetic learning support staff
8	Classroom assistants	Savings from reduction in resources to provide classroom assistants
7	Musical Instrument instructors	Reduced timetabling of instrument music tuition
10.5	School Secretaries	Reduction in clerical staff
7	Foreign Language Assistants	Discontinuation of modern language assistant arrangements
21	Library Assistants, Clerical Officers, Managers	Various – see footnote ¹

¹ Reduction of business support officers, staff saving in peripatetic service, reduction in requirements for Library staff, redesign of planning & community services, removal of staff welfare posts, redesign of management of Homelink, CLAD management

