

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/084(13172)

Please can you supply the following information regarding representatives of religious bodies on the authorities education committee.

1. The names of the current members of the education committee that are appointed under subsection 4 (a), (b) and (c) of section 124. For (c) please detail which church or other denomination body said person is representing.

The representatives appointed under Section 124 (4) of the Act are:

- (4)(a) Ms Elizabeth Malcolm, Church of Scotland;
- (4)(b) The Catholic Church representative resigned on 8 January 2018 and we await notice of their replacement from the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh;
- (4)(c) Mr Stephen Bunyan, Scottish Episcopal Church.

2. How long each of the persons in answer to question 1 have held their post on the Education Committee.

- Ms Malcolm – 9 months (from May 2017);
- See above. (The previous representative held the role for 12 months);
- Mr Bunyan – 15 years, 1 month (from December 2002).

3. When did the authority last consider the "comparative strength of churches and denominational bodies" as required under subsection (4)(c) of section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 ?

The authority last discharged its duty under section 124 (4)(c) in May 2002, prior to the appointment of the current representative.

4. How did the authority consider the "comparative strength of churches and denominational bodies" as required under subsection (4)(c) of section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 at it's last consideration?

The authority discharged this duty by inviting any church or denominational body having a duly constituted charge or other regularly appointed place of worship within East Lothian to submit nominations. As part of that process, each church or denominational body was required to provide a note of the number of its members and any other information it considered appropriate. This was done by way of an advertisement in the local press (see 6 below).

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/084(13172)

5. When did the authority last appoint a representative under subsection (4)(c)?

The authority last appointed a representative under section 124(4)(c) in December 2002.

6. When the authority last had to appoint a representative under subsection (4)(c) did it advertise the post, and if so how and where?

Advertisements were placed in the East Lothian News and the East Lothian Courier in May 2002.

7. When the authority last had to appoint a representative under subsection (4)(c) how many applicants did it receive, and if available, from which denomination bodies were they from?

Following the advertisements in May 2002, the authority received one nomination; from Saint Anne's Scottish Episcopal Church in Dunbar.

This request relates to the following requirement in law placed on local authorities:

Under section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 it states:

(4) Three persons mentioned in subsection 2(b) above...

(a) one representative of the Church of Scotland...

(b) ...one representative of the Roman Catholic Church

(c) one person...in the selection of whom the authority shall have regard to the comparative strength within their area...