



# Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

2010 asp 2

*Call-in by the Scottish Ministers*

## **15 Call-in of closure proposals**

- (1) Subsections (2) to (6) apply where, in relation to any school, an education authority has decided to implement a closure proposal.
- (2) The education authority must—
  - (a) notify the Scottish Ministers of that decision within the period of 6 working days starting with the day on which the decision is made,
  - (b) along with that notification, give them a copy of—
    - (i) the proposal paper,
    - (ii) the consultation report.
- (3) Before the expiry of 6 weeks starting with the day on which that decision is made, the Scottish Ministers may issue a call-in notice to the education authority.
- (4) In considering whether to issue a call-in notice, the Scottish Ministers are to take account of any relevant representations made to them (by any person) within the first 3 weeks of that 6 week period.
- (5) A call-in notice has the effect of remitting the closure proposal to the Scottish Ministers.
- (6) The education authority may not proceed further with the proposal before the expiry of the 6 week period within which a call-in notice may be issued as respects the proposal.
- (7) But the restriction in subsection (6) ceases to apply if (before the end of that period) the Scottish Ministers inform the education authority that they do not intend to issue a call-in notice as respects the proposal.
- (8) In subsection (6), the reference to proceeding further with the proposal is to implementing it (wholly or partly).

**16 Determination of case**

- (1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply where a call-in notice is issued as respects a closure proposal.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers may—
  - (a) refuse to consent to the proposal, or
  - (b) grant their consent to the proposal—
    - (i) subject to conditions, or
    - (ii) unconditionally.
- (3) The education authority may not proceed further with the proposal—
  - (a) unless the Scottish Ministers grant their consent to it under subsection (2)(b), and
  - (b) until the Scottish Ministers duly inform the authority of that consent (and any conditions to which it is subject).
- (4) In subsection (3), the reference to proceeding further with the proposal is to implementing it (wholly or partly).

**17 Grounds for call-in etc.**

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may issue a call-in notice only if subsection (2) applies.
- (2) This subsection applies where it appears to the Scottish Ministers that the education authority may have failed—
  - (a) in a significant regard to comply with the requirements imposed on it by (or under) this Act so far as they are relevant in relation to the closure proposal, or
  - (b) to take proper account of a material consideration relevant to its decision to implement the proposal.
- (3) The education authority must provide the Scottish Ministers with such information in connection with a closure proposal as they may reasonably require of it for the purposes of their consideration of—
  - (a) whether to issue a call-in notice, or
  - (b) the matter of consent (including conditions) under section 16(2).
- (4) In this Act, a “call-in notice” is one issuable by the Scottish Ministers under section 15(3).