

Tabled
ITEM No 8.2(a)

Independent Member
for the Lothians

MARGO MACDONALD MSP

City of Edinburgh Councillors
City Chambers
High Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1YJ

LETTER TO BE SENT BY EMAIL

16th December 2008

Dear Councillor,

Portobello High School – Wave 3 Schools

My office has received a large number of letters and emails from the parents of pupils at Portobello High School (PHS) asking me to support them in their campaign for the school to be the first to be rebuilt as part of Wave 3, as per the recommendations in the report that will be before you and voted on at the full council meeting on Thursday 18th December.

In December 2006 the Council approved in principle the rebuilding of the school in Portobello Park but since that time parents have repeatedly contacted my office, dismayed at the length of the process involved. The opinion of Senior Counsel, given at the beginning of December 2008, indicated that the Council does not require the prior consent or authorisation of a court to appropriate part of the park for the construction of a new school building.

Councillors are well aware of the very poor state of repair of the existing building, of its unsuitability for education in the 21st century and of parents' frustration at not having had the Condition Survey made available to the Parent Council. I realise that the council has allocated £33m but that additional funding will be required from the Scottish Government but want to request in the strongest possible terms that councillors vote to accept the recommendations of the Wave 3 report.

Yours,
Margo MacDonald MSP