



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Joan McAlpine MSP**  
**South Scotland Region**

Mr Gavin Stevenson  
Chief Executive  
Dumfries and Galloway Council  
By email.

30 August 2018

Dear Gavin,

**North West Campus, Dumfries**

I have been contacted by a number of constituents who have raised concerns in relation to the recently opened North West Campus in Dumfries. I understand that sometimes media reports are inaccurate, however, due to two recently reported incidents – one involving the removal of a ceiling and another including the injury of a child by a falling door – I find it necessary to write to you in order to get some clarity.

In light of the recent Cole Report, where a number of key failings on the part of Dumfries and Galloway Council were highlighted in relation to the design and build contract for DGOne, I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

- (1) Was the contract awarded to Graham for the North West Campus a design and build contract?
- (2) How did the Council ensure it was allocating the appropriate internal level of resources in terms of expertise, experience and time resource to the project?
- (3) During the construction of the Campus, what level of informed independent scrutiny was provided by the Council?
- (4) Are you certain as to the quality and safety of the Campus going forward?

I am sure you can appreciate the level of concern among parents in particular, given recent incidents in the Campus, especially in the wake of the death of a pupil in Edinburgh in 2014 which led to subsequent school closures after building defects came to light. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**Joan McAlpine**  
**MSP for South Scotland**

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