

P-04-559 Secondary School Awareness of Self-Harm – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Clerking Team, 31.10.14.

Dear Kayleigh,

Thank you for the opportunity to further comment upon this petition.

Within other comments, it is noted by Mr Bob Hudson that www.kooth.com "operates 24 hours a day", however it should be noted that throughout a day, queues on this site are enormous and many young people are left waiting for hours before receiving the chance to talk to a counsellor within specified time limits.

Mr Huw Lewis also states that "As part of the school curriculum in Wales, personal and social education (PSE) prepares learners to be personally and socially effective by providing learning experiences in which they can develop and apply skills, explore personal attitudes and values, and acquire appropriate knowledge and understanding." This is truthful, however this education is not effective if not enrolled successfully within schools, with some schools opting out of providing this service to save time to prepare for examinations. This is sensible however can result in a lack of understanding of important issues such as self-harm. This is why more emphasis should be made on PSE lessons and teachers should be more adequately informed on how to teach these specific lessons.

In conclusion to increase acknowledgement and awareness of self-harm altogether would see the requirement of organisations to partake in activities with young people to boost understanding. The effectiveness of these activities would be dependant on how many schools these were enrolled in.

Kind regards,

Eleanor Price