**Name:**

**Address:**

**Postcode:

Email:**

Dear Councillor:

**Save Scottish Borders School Libraries**

I am writing to you as a concerned constituent regarding the Scottish Borders Council decision to run a pilot scheme in Galashiels Academy, Peebles High and Kelso High which has seen the removal of qualified staff who are being replaced with pupils, volunteers and self-service machines.

In my view, school librarians are a critical part of any school’s professional staff. Their skills are needed now more than ever. With vast online resources there is no shortage of sources of information. However, the more important skill is now understanding and evaluating these sources. Pupils need to learn how to sort out fact from fake. They do more than any self-service machine could ever do.

This decision may prevent pupils from reaching their full potential. Librarians have professional skills that support children of all abilities to learn, whether that be preparing them for further / higher education or employment. Replacing essential staff with pupils and unqualified volunteers is an absolute disgrace and could have a detrimental impact on the learning outcomes of our young people placing them at a disadvantage in comparison to the rest of Scotland.

UNISON Scottish Borders Public Services branch is currently running a campaign to reverse the pilot scheme and further cuts to education. I fully agree with the union’s position and urge you to use your position and influence as an elected member to support this campaign and see these cuts removed from Scottish Borders Schools.

I would appreciate it if you would get back to me with a response.

Yours sincerely,