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**WRITTEN QUESTION FOR SUBMISSION TO EDUCATION,  
CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY  
14 MAY 2024**

**QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR FERNANDES  
DATE SUBMITTED: 25 APRIL 2024**

Elgin High School library is currently closed and its stock has been boxed up.

Considering the impact on children's literacy, education and well being, can officers assess the current state of recruiting qualified librarians in Moray, especially after the 2018 decision to reduce school librarians by half, and explain how Moray schools prioritise their libraries?

**RESPONSE**

Elgin High School library is currently closed (since January 2024) due to several reasons:

- Inability to recruit a librarian and not the desire of the school to be without this invaluable resource
- The increased roll at the school pending the extension build means that the area is required as a communal space for students as well as a study space for S6 students
- Students are being supported with their literacy skills within the English department and other subject areas across the school as well as additional support being offered where required

This is the only secondary which does not have a librarian at this time however all schools have in place support mechanisms for literacy, education and wellbeing which include inclusion staff, guidance and pastoral support staff etc. Budget decisions have not impacted on recruitment, this is due to not being able to fill the post. Some librarians in Moray work over 2 schools which makes up a full-time post. 0.5 Full time equivalent is the allocation through DSM and each HT has flexibility within Devolved School Management to increase this if they wish which one school has. This is a decision devolved to Head Teachers.