



Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

Petition Number: [PE1474](#)

Main Petitioner: David Milne

Subject: Calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to hold a public inquiry into the way local government, Scottish Ministers and other relevant public bodies conducted themselves throughout their dealings with the Trump Organisation in relation to the Menie project.

Background

[Trump International Golf Links \(Scotland\)](#) submitted an application for outline planning permission to Aberdeenshire Council on 27 November 2006 for two 18-hole golf courses, a 450 room hotel, 36 golf villas, 950 holiday homes and two future residential development areas at the Menie Estate near Balmedie

Aberdeenshire Councils Infrastructure Services Committee refused the grant of outline planning permission for the proposed development at its [meeting](#) of 29 November 2007. The decision was made on the casting vote of the Committee Chair, following a tied vote where seven Committee members voted for the grant of permission and seven voted against.

On 4 December 2007 the Scottish Ministers [announced](#) that they would call-in the application for their own decision, under powers granted by Section 46 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. Scottish Ministers [announced](#) that they had granted outline planning permission for the proposed development on 16 December 2008.

The Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee held an inquiry into the Planning Application Processes (Menie Estate) during early 2008, with a [Report](#) being published on 14 March 2008. Paragraph 63 of this Report sets out a detailed chronology of events, established through a detailed examination of available documentation and through questioning of the key participants, covering the period from the first time that a proposed development at the Menie Estate was mooted in 2003, until 12 December 2007, the date of a special meeting of Aberdeenshire Council.

The first of the two golf courses proposed for the Menie Estate, the Championship Course, opened on 10 July 2012. Detailed plans for the second golf course, the MacLeod Course, were submitted by the Trump Organisation to Aberdeenshire Council in February 2013.

Scottish Ministers can order a public inquiry to be held into any matter that is not specifically reserved to the UK Government, under the provisions of Section 28 of the Inquiries Act 2005.

Scottish Government Action

The Scottish Government has not made any public statement regarding a public inquiry into the handling of the Trump International Golf Links (Scotland) development at the Menie Estate by public authorities.

Scottish Parliament Action

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April 2013

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