



PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

8th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 27 April 2017

Present:

Johann Lamont (Convener)
Brian Whittle
Maurice Corry

Angus MacDonald (Deputy Convener)
Rona Mackay

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

1. **Consideration of a new petition:** The Committee considered a new petition—

PE1643 by Jack Douglas, LGBT+ Officer on behalf of NUS Scotland on Introduce individual risk-based blood donation in Scotland and took evidence from Philip Whyte, Policy and influencing manager and Ali Hudson, LGBT+ Campaign Representative, NUS Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the Standing Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO), the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, the Equality Network, the Terrence Higgins Trust and the Freedom to Donate campaign.

2. **Consideration of new petitions:** The Committee considered the following new petitions—

PE1638 by Sean Clerkin on Local Housing Allowance (Bedroom tax 2). The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers.

Maurice Corry declared an interest as a local authority senior councillor for Argyll and Bute Council.

PE1641 by David Robertson on Future Independence Referendum. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Standing Orders Rule 15.7 on the basis that the issue has recently been debated in the Parliament.

3. **Consideration of continued petitions:** The Committee considered the following continued petitions—

PE1592 by Shaheen McQuade on Group B Strep Information and Testing. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government representative on the UK National Screening Committee.

PE1618 by Carl Grundy on behalf of Riders Club Edinburgh on More powers to the police to combat motorcycle theft. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Standing Orders Rule 15.7 on the basis that stakeholders consider that Police Scotland has adequate powers in relation to motor cycle theft and measures are in place to address the wider social issues.

PE1621 by James Robertson on Sepsis Awareness, Diagnosis and Treatment. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

PE1623 by Spencer Fildes on behalf of Scottish Secular Society on Unelected church appointees on Local Authority Education Committees. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

PE1626 by Pat Rafferty on behalf of Unite on Regulation of Bus Services. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

Johann Lamont declared an interest as a member of the Scottish Co-operative Party.

PE1629 by Jennifer Lewis on MRI scans for Ocular Melanoma sufferers in Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

PE1630 by Fiona Webb on Nursery funding for 3 year olds. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

The meeting closed at 10.53 am.

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