



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

16th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 21 September 2017

Present:

Michelle Ballantyne
Angus MacDonald (Deputy Convener)
Brian Whittle

Johann Lamont (Convener)
Rona Mackay

Also present: Elaine Smith (PE1463)

The meeting opened at 9.19 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to consider its work programme and a note from the clerk on the general data protection regulations in private at a future meeting.
2. **Consideration of new petitions:** The Committee considered the following new petitions—

[PE1659](#) by Bill Tait on Local authority complaints body. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, Citizens Advice Scotland, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, COSLA, the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers and the Scottish Independence Advocacy Alliance.

[PE1660](#) by Bill Tait on Scottish Legal Complaints Commission review and [PE1661](#) by Melanie Collins on Reform of regulation of the legal profession in Scotland. The Committee agreed to join these petitions together for future consideration on the basis that they raise similar issues. The Committee also agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission, the Law Society of Scotland, the Faculty of Advocates, Scottish Solicitors' Discipline Tribunal, Citizens Advice Scotland and the Judicial Complaints Reviewer.

[PE1663](#) by Leslie Wallace on Driven grouse shooting study. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage.

[PE1665](#) by Mark McCabe on Common law of blasphemy. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

[PE1666](#) by Ian Davidson on Scottish Parliament electoral cycle. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

[PE1667](#) by W Hunter Watson on Review of mental health and incapacity legislation. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the Mental Welfare Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission. The Committee also agreed to ask the clerks to identify additional organisations and representative bodies of those who provide care, from which the Committee may wish to invite written submissions.

[PE1669](#) by Bill Welsh on Independent vaccine safety commission. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the Joint Committee on Vaccines and Immunisation and Health Protection Scotland.

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

[PE1463](#) by Sandra Whyte, Marian Dyer and Lorraine Cleaver on Effective thyroid and adrenal testing, diagnosis and treatment. The Committee agreed to consider a draft report on the petition in private at a future meeting. The Committee also agreed to seek time in the Chamber for a debate on the petition.

[PE1548](#) by Beth Morrison on National guidance on restraint and seclusion in schools. The Committee agreed to write to the Deputy First Minister.

[PE1595](#) by Alexander Taylor on Moratorium on shared space schemes. The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Transport and the Islands.

[PE1600](#) by John Chapman on Speed awareness courses. The Committee agreed to write to Police Scotland and the Lord Advocate.

[PE1604](#) by Catherine Matheson on Inquests for all deaths by suicide in Scotland. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Government has confirmed that it will extend the terms of the review into the arrangements for investigating the deaths of patients under section 37 of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2015 to cover the issue raised by the petition and that it has committed to consult the petitioner as part of that process. In closing the petition, the Committee also agreed to write to the Scottish Government to clarify the timescales of the review.

[PE1610](#) by Matt Halliday on Upgrade the A75. The Committee agreed to join this petition together with PE1657 on A77 upgrade for future consideration and to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work to give evidence at a future meeting.

[PE1619](#) by Stuart Knox on Diabetes Continuous Glucose Monitoring Sensors. The Committee agreed to invite the Scottish Government to provide evidence at a future meeting and to invite the petitioner to make a written submission in light of the Scottish Government's most recent submission.

[PE1640](#) by Eileen Bryant on Action against irresponsible dog breeding. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and to invite

the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform to give evidence at a future meeting.

[PE1642](#) by Norma Austin Hart on Sale and marketing of energy drinks to under sixteens. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

[PE1644](#) by Katherine Perlo on behalf of Ethical Voice for Animals on Country sports tourism funding. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that there is no support for the action called for in the petition.

[PE1645](#) by James Ward on Review of legal aid in Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Legal Aid Board, the Law Society of Scotland and the Independent Strategic Review of Legal Aid.

The meeting closed at 10.55 am.

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