



PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

12th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 15 June 2017

Present:

Johann Lamont (Convener)
Brian Whittle
Maurice Corry

Angus MacDonald (Deputy Convener)
Rona Mackay

Also present: James Dornan (PE1319), Elaine Smith (PE1463)

The meeting opened at 8.45 am.

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

PE1649 by Jennifer Lawrie on council tax bands. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and COSLA.

PE1650 by Rebecca Jaynes on students awards agency for Scotland's post-graduate eligibility criteria. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the National Union of Students Scotland, the Student Awards Agency Scotland and Universities Scotland.

PE1652 by Irene Baillie on abusive and threatening communication. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Women's Aid, Respect and Victim Support Scotland.

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

PE1551 by Scott Pattinson on mandatory reporting of child abuse. The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Childcare and Early Years.

PE1612 by Graham McKinlay on criminal injuries compensation scheme - change to the "same roof rule". The Committee agreed to close the petition

under Standing Orders Rule 15.7 on the basis that the Scottish Government has explained its rationale for not establishing a separate compensation scheme but that the petition has informed and shaped the debate on this issue, and that the petitioner has welcomed the fact that matters raised have been taken into account and considers that progress has been made through the Limitation (Childhood Abuse) (Scotland) Bill.

PE1625 by Patricia Hewitt and Mary Black on wider awareness, acceptance and recognition of pathological demand avoidance syndrome. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and integration joint boards.

Maurice Corry indicated that he was formerly the chair of an integration joint board.

PE1633 by Bill Alexander on private criminal prosecutions. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and the Health and Safety Executive in Scotland.

PE1636 by Michael Traill on require that all single use drinks cups are 100% biodegradable. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee under Standing Orders Rule 15.6.2 for consideration as part of its work on Scotland's approach to waste management.

3. **Consideration of a continued petition:** The Committee considered a continued petition—

PE1463 by Sandra Whyte, Marian Dyer and Lorraine Cleaver on effective thyroid and adrenal testing, diagnosis and treatment and took evidence from Lorraine Cleaver and John Midgley. The Committee agreed to reflect on the evidence heard and consider a note by the clerk and a revised draft report at a future meeting.

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

PE1648 by Stephanie Dodds on nursery business rates and took evidence from Stephanie Dodds and Claire Schofield, Director of Membership, Policy and Communications National Day Nurseries Association. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, Voice Union, Parenting Across Scotland and local authorities.

5. **Consideration of a continued petition:** The Committee considered a continued petition—

PE1319 by William Smith and Scott Robertson on improving youth football in Scotland and took evidence from Neil Doncaster, Chief Executive, Scottish Professional Football League; Andrew McKinlay, Chief Operating Officer and Stewart Regan, Chief Executive, Scottish Football Association. The Committee agreed to arrange visits to academies and, to consider a draft report on the petition at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.34 am.

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