



PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

13th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 22 June 2017

Present:

Johann Lamont (Convener)
Maurice Corry
Edward Mountain (Committee
Substitute)

Angus MacDonald (Deputy Convener)
Rona Mackay

Also present: John Finnie (PE1637)

Apologies were received from Brian Whittle.

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Consideration of a continued petition:** The Committee considered PE1635 by Emma McDonald on review of section 11 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and took evidence in a roundtable format from—

Stuart Valentine, Chief Executive, Relationships Scotland, Ian Maxwell, National Manager, Families Need Fathers, Pauline McIntyre, Parliamentary & Policy Officer, Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland, Dr Marsha Scott, Chief Executive, Scottish Women's Aid and Mhairi McGowan, Head of ASSIST & Domestic Abuse Services, ASSIST. The Committee agreed to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Justice to provide evidence at a future meeting.

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

PE1658 by Wendy Stephen on compensation for those who suffered a neurological disability following administration of the Pluserix vaccine between 1988 and 1992 and took evidence from Wendy Stephen. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the Commission on Human

Medicines. The Committee also agreed to consider options for further evidence on the petition and to seek further background information on the issues raised in evidence.

PE1654 by Ian Munn on forestry regulation. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, Confor, Forestry Commission Scotland, Forestry Contractors Association, Scottish Timber Trade Association, Woodland Trust, the Royal Scottish Forestry Society and relevant local authorities.

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

PE1656 by Rob McDowall on threats or assaults on sitting members of parliament, their staff and families. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Faculty of Advocates, Law Society of Scotland, Police Scotland and Scottish Sentencing Council.

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

PE1637 by Greg Fullarton on behalf of Cromarty Rising on ship-to-ship oil transfers and trust port accountability. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

Angus MacDonald indicated that he, with others, successfully opposed a ship-to-ship oil transfer application in the Firth of Forth in 2006-2007.

The meeting closed at 11.26 am.

Catherine Fergusson
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5186
Email: petitions@parliament.scot