



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**22nd Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)**

**Thursday 7 December 2017**

Present:

Michelle Ballantyne  
Angus MacDonald (Deputy Convener)  
Brian Whittle  
Johann Lamont (Convener)  
Rona Mackay

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Consideration of continued petition:** The Committee considered the following continued petition—

[PE1627](#) by Annette McKenzie on Consent for mental health treatment for people under 18 years of age and took evidence from Graeme Henderson, Director of Services and Development, Penumbra; Carolyn Lochhead, Public Affairs Manager, Scottish Association for Mental Health; and Amy Woodhouse, Head of Policy, Projects and Participation, Children in Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the General Medical Council and the Royal College of General Practitioners. The Committee also noted that the Minister for Mental Health will give evidence at a future meeting.

Michelle Ballantyne declared an interest as a former head of service at Stable Life Limited.

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

[PE1674](#) by Ellie Stirling on Managing the Cat Population in Scotland and took evidence from Ellie Stirling. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, SSPCA, the Cat Population Control Group, veterinary bodies, and relevant conservation bodies.

Rona Mackay noted an interest as a member of the Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare.

3. **Consideration of a new petition:** The Committee considered the following new petition—

[PE1672](#) by Hugh Paterson on Scottish Law Commission Report on Prescription. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

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

[PE1458](#) by Peter Cherbi on Register of Interests for members of Scotlands judiciary. The Committee agreed to consider a letter to the Lord President and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in private at a future meeting.

[PE1651](#) by Marion Brown on behalf of Recovery and Renewal on Prescribed drug dependence and withdrawal. The Committee agreed to invite the Minister for Mental Health to provide evidence at a future meeting.

[PE1654](#) by Ian Munn on Forestry regulation. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the majority of written responses received do not support the action called for in the petition.

[PE1656](#) by Rob McDowall on Threats and assaults on sitting members of parliament, their staff and families. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that existing legislation and common law are considered to provide sufficient protections for elected members, their staff and family members.

[PE1658](#) by Wendy Stephen on Compensation for those who suffered a neurological disability following administration of the Pluserix vaccine between 1988 and 1992. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the petition to its meeting on 21 December 2017.

The meeting closed at 11.21 am.

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