



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

15th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Thursday 1 October 2020

Present:

Maurice Corry
Tom Mason
David Torrance

Johann Lamont (Convener)
Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

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

PE1804: Halt Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd's Air Traffic Management Strategy, and took evidence from petitioners John Doig and Peter Henderson. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity. It also agreed to write to Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd, Loganair, Prospect, and relevant airports and local authorities.

PE1815: Translocate protected beavers to reduce licensed killing. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee under Rule 15.6.2 of Standing Orders.

PE1816: Reform of local authority financial powers. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government agrees that the present council tax system must end, that cross-party talks to identify an alternative to the council tax have begun, and that the Scottish Government is working with COSLA to develop a rules-based framework for local government funding.

PE1817: End Conversion Therapy. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Equalities and Human Rights Committee under Rule 15.6.2 of Standing Orders.

PE1821: Renovate unused buildings to create homes for homeless people. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government is continuing

to develop measures to help address homelessness and the redevelopment of unused buildings through the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group, Housing 2040, Empty Homes policy, the National Planning Framework 4, and the Town Centre Action Plan Review.

PE1822: More NHS money for hospital beds. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and NHS Scotland.

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

PE1726: Primary Hyperparathyroidism. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government is undertaking work to raise awareness of Primary Hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) caused by adenoma through National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines and the Scottish Endocrine Interest Group, highlighting PHPT as a topic for NHS Education for Scotland to explore, and is open to applications for funding via the Chief Scientists Office.

PE1775: Introduce statutory allergy care legislation in nurseries and schools. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

PE1776: Dogs are not inanimate objects. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Committee considers existing law on dog theft to be sufficient and effective.

PE1777: To introduce British Sign Language (BSL) into the Curriculum for Excellence. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

The meeting closed at 11.23 am.

Lynn Russell
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.60 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5186
Email: petitions@parliament.scot