



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

20th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 9 November 2017

Present:

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

Also present: Edward Mountain (PE1603)

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

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

[PE1603](#) by Mairi Campbell-Jack and Douglas Beattie on behalf of Quaker in Scotland & Forces Watch on Ensuring greater scrutiny, guidance and consultation on armed forces visits to schools in Scotland and took evidence from Brigadier Paul Buttery, Head Training Education Skills Recruiting and Resettlement, Ministry of Defence; Wing Commander Ian Garnett, Field Commander North, Royal Air Force; Commander Billy Adams, Commanding Officer Recruiting Field Force & Area Recruiting Officer, Scotland & Northern Ireland, Royal Navy; and Major Deborah Scott, SO2 Recruiting and Engagement Coordination, HQ 51st Infantry Brigade and Army Headquarters Scotland. The Committee agreed to invite the petitioner to respond to the evidence heard, and to consider the petition further at a future meeting.

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

[PE1668](#) by Anne Glennie on Improving literacy standards in schools through research-informed reading instruction and took evidence from Anne Glennie; Sarah McGeown, Senior Lecturer in Developmental Psychology, University of Edinburgh; and Gordon Askew, MBE, International Foundation for Effective Reading Instruction. The Committee

agreed to write to the Scottish Government, the General Teaching Council for Scotland, the Educational Institute of Scotland, the Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association, the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, and teacher training institutions in Scotland.

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

[PE1480](#) by Amanda Kopel on behalf of The Frank Kopel Alzheimer's Awareness Campaign on Alzheimer's and dementia awareness / [PE1533](#) by Jeff Adamson on behalf of Scotland Against the Care Tax on Abolition of non-residential social care charges for older and disabled people. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

[PE1551](#) by Scott Pattinson on Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse. The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Childcare and Early Years.

[PE1577](#) by Rachael Wallace on Adult Cerebral Palsy Services. The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Public Health and Sport and to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

[PE1581](#) by Duncan Wright on behalf of Save Scotland's School Libraries on Save Scotland's School Libraries. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the petitioner considers that there is a clear plan for development and delivery of the strategy announced by the Deputy First Minister, with an appropriate timescale in place.

[PE1625](#) by Patricia Hewitt and Mary Black on Wider awareness, acceptance and recognition of Pathological Demand Avoidance Syndrome. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government is clear in its view that PDA is covered within ASD diagnosis; this position is in line with the international standards of best practice as established in ICD-10 and DSM-5, and is reflected in its national guidance SIGN 145 which has been developed by a multidisciplinary working group which has taken account of the scientific literature and evidence; work is also ongoing in relation to the Scottish Strategy for Autism, and NES has provided additional resources and support tools for the health and social care workforce. In closing the petition, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government to indicate that PDA awareness should be included in the ongoing work on the Scottish Strategy for Autism.

[PE1633](#) by Bill Alexander on Private Criminal Prosecution in Scotland. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Justice Committee under Rule 15.6.2 of Standing Orders.

[PE1648](#) by Stephanie Dodds on Nursery business rates. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government has agreed that childcare nurseries should benefit from a new 100% rate relief from 2018-19.

[PE1649](#) by Jennifer Lawrie on Council tax bands. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government has no plans to undertake a revaluation exercise during the current parliamentary term.

[PE1650](#) by Rebecca Jeynes on Student Awards Agency for Scotland's post-graduate eligibility criteria. 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.

[PE1652](#) by Irene Baillie on Abusive and threatening communication. The Committee agreed to defer further consideration of the petition until the Review of Hate Crime Legislation is concluded and its recommendations published.

[PE1591](#) by Catriona MacDonald on behalf of SOS-NHS on Major redesign of healthcare services in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the petition to its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.36 am.

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