



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

24th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 21 December 2017

Present:

Michelle Ballantyne
Rona Mackay

Angus MacDonald (Deputy Convener)
Brian Whittle

Also present: Alexander Burnett (PE1662)

Apologies were received from Johann Lamont (Convener).

The meeting opened at 10.03 am.

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

[PE1602](#) by Carol Sunnucks on ECGs and heart echo tests within antenatal care. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders, on the basis that the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence is developing guidelines which will be issued for consultation in 2018, with an anticipated publication date of March 2019. In doing so, the Committee agreed to draw the petitioner's attention to the fact that there is a facility for people to register their interest in the development of the guidelines and that, if the petitioner is not satisfied at the conclusions reached by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, they can bring back a petition in the same or similar terms in the future. The Committee also agreed to write to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to draw its attention to the petition.

[PE1626](#) by Pat Rafferty on behalf of Unite Scotland on Regulation of Bus Services. The Committee agreed to invite the petitioner to submit a response to the two most recent submissions from the Scottish Government.

[PE1629](#) by Jennifer Lewis on MRI scans for Ocular Melanoma sufferers in Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and Chief Medical Officer.

[PE1632](#) by Amanda Macdonald on Concessionary transport for carers. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

[PE1638](#) by Sean Clerkin on Local Housing Allowance (Bedroom tax 2). The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the petitioner has confirmed that he is content to withdraw the petition given that the UK Government has dropped its plans to introduce local housing allowance rates to the social rented sector.

[PE1653](#) by Michaela Jackson on behalf of Gorebridge Community Trust on Active travel infrastructure. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

[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 write to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the Commission on Human Medicines, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Scottish Government.

[PE1662](#) by Janey Cringean and Lorraine Murray on behalf of Tick-borne Illness Campaign Scotland on Improve Treatment for Patients with Lyme Disease and Associated Tick-borne Diseases. The Committee agreed to write to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. The Committee also agreed to consider a note by the clerk at a future meeting on options for taking oral evidence on the petition once the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines have been published.

[PE1664](#) by Harry Huyton on behalf of OneKind on Greater protection for mountain hares. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

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

[PE1681](#) by Richard Morris on Adult Consensual Incestuous Relationships and Marriage. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Law Commission undertook a report on this issue as recently as 2007 and concluded that the majority view at the time favored retaining the offence and the current definition.

3. **Consideration of a continued petition (in private):** The Committee considered a draft letter on [PE1458](#) by Peter Cherbi on Register of interests for members of Scotlands judiciary. The Committee agreed to consider a further draft letter at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.06 am.

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