



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

21st Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 23 November 2017

Present:

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

Also present: Edward Mountain, Rhoda Grant and Kate Forbes (PE1591); Neil Findlay (PE1635) and Finlay Carson (PE1610 and PE1657).

The meeting opened at 8.45 am.

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

[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 write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

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

[PE1635](#) by Emma McDonald on Review of section 11 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and took evidence from Annabelle Ewing, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs and Simon Stockwell, Head of Family and Property Law, Scottish Government. The Committee agreed to reflect on the evidence heard at a future meeting and to write to the Judicial Institute for Scotland.

Annabelle Ewing declared an interest as a member of the Law Society of Scotland and that she holds a current practising certificate.

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

[PE1610](#) by Matt Halliday on Upgrade the A75 / [PE1657](#) by Donald McHarrie on behalf of A77 Action Group on A77 upgrade and took evidence from Humza Yousaf, Minister for Transport and the Islands; Alison Irvine, Head of Strategic Transport Planning and Paul Junik, Head of Transport Forecasts and Infrastructure Planning, Scottish Government. The Committee agreed to reflect on the evidence heard from the Minister for Transport and the Islands at a future meeting and to write to the Scottish Government.

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

[PE1673](#) by James Mackie on Operation and running of child protection services in Scotland;
[PE1675](#) by James Mackie on Attendance at Children's Hearings;
and took evidence from James Mackie, Anne Speake and Maggie Mellon. The Committee agreed to join the petitions together for future consideration and to write to the Scottish Government.

Brian Whittle declared an interest as a board member of the NSPCC West of Scotland.

Michelle Ballantyne indicated that she had previously attended as an advocate for children at hearing panels.

Rona Mackay indicated that she had previously been a Children's Panel member.

The meeting closed at 11.37 am.

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