



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

11th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Thursday 10 September 2020

Present:

Maurice Corry
Tom Mason
David Torrance

Johann Lamont (Convener)
Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)

Also present: Rhoda Grant (PE1723)

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

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

PE1793: Alleviation of Water Poverty. The Committee agreed to write to COSLA.

PE1802: Improved safety for cyclists. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that part of the petition is reserved, the Scottish Government do not agree with the action called for in part of the petition and the Scottish Government currently invest in training for cyclist and plan to increase this funding. The Committee also agreed to write to the Scottish Government.

PE1803: Right to Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government does not wish to mandate how Scottish public institutions, organisations or individuals approach this issue, and encourages the UK Government to develop legislation in a manner which restricts the scope of application and respects the autonomy of Scottish institutions in making decisions on this issue.

PE1807: Compensation for paying university students. The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science and the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman.

PE1808: Remuneration of vital public service employees. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government. It also agreed to write to the GMB, the Scottish Trades Union Congress and UNISON.

PE1809: Reinstate continuing professional development allowance for general dental practitioners. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government decided not to proceed with the withdrawal of the NHS general dental practitioner's continuing professional development allowance.

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

PE1545: Residential care provision for the severely learning disabled. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and the petitioner.

PE1712: Soul and conscience letters. The Committee agreed to write to the General Medical Council.

PE1722: Parking charges at island lifeline ferry ports. The Committee agreed to invite the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands to give evidence at a future Committee meeting.

PE1723: Essential tremor treatment in Scotland. The Committee agreed to invite Professor Nandi to give evidence at a future Committee meeting. The Committee also agreed to write to the Scottish Government and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

PE1762: End the killing of wildlife on grouse moors and elsewhere in Scotland. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee under Rule 15.6.2 of Standing Orders for consideration.

PE1764: Include evolutionary studies within the primary school curriculum. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government does not agree with the action called for in the petition but will contact Education Scotland's Senior Education Officers to advise them of the petition, to help improve teachers' understanding and confidence in science and religious and moral education.

PE1765: Make those in Scottish public office accountable. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that effective measures are in place to ensure appropriate conduct of individuals in public office.

PE1767: Scottish fire and rescue legislation and human rights. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service refute all aspects of the petition, stating that the relevant legislation is compliant with the European Convention of Human Rights.

The meeting closed at 11.05 am.

PPC/S5/20/11/M

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