Name of petitioner
Laura Ross

Petition title
Inverness Fire Service Control Room

Petition summary
Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the decision made by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to close the Inverness Control Room.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition
As there was no previous public consultations, the communities of the Highlands and Islands were never able to take any postive actions to help save the Inverness Fire Service Control Room/Centre.
I have also taken the opportunity to make the Justice Committee aware of both the facts that we wish to take this to petition and that there is a large FaceBook Campaign.
I have also contacted Local MSPs and Highland Counsellors.

Petition background information
Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the decision made by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to close down Inverness Fire Service Control Room/Centre. We the undersigned believe not only will this be a loss of careers to many but this also will put many lives at direct risk, through the loss of local knowledge that can not be replicated by computers or persons elsewhere.

The Highlands & Islands of Scotland are a unique geographical area, with a mountainous terrain and landmass with hundreds of miles of extremely remote coastline, the area involved covers a landmass larger than Belgium.

The main route through here is the notorious A9, and our communities are far and wide and each fire station and retained fire station are very diverse in its requirements.

The Inverness Control Room provides us with a unique understanding and knowledge of the areas and communities they serve, the regions communities have one of the largest range of dialects anywhere in the UK. We also have many native Gaelic speakers, who also have unique dialects. Many roads and house names throughout the region are in Gaelic encompassing unique spellings and phonetics. Its is essential therefore that the people serving this area, know and live here,they have an unequivocally unique empathy for the areas they are providing cover for.
The communities of the Highlands & Islands of Scotland were never consulted before or during discussions made by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to close the Inverness Fire Service Control Centre. We are calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government not only to review this decision, but to overturn it in full.

Unique web address

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/invernessfirecontrolroom

Related information for petition

Please find below a direct link to the FaceBook support page:
https://www.facebook.com/saveourcontrolcenter

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament’s website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

26 / 03 / 2014

Comments to stimulate online discussion

We have a FaceBook support campaign started 07/02/2014, within the first week we had gained the support of over 4000 people the majority are from the Highlands and Islands! However we are attracting support from Fire Service personel throughout the world from Canada to Australia. People are outraged that the Communities that this directly involves can be so easily overlooked in any decision making regarding their safety.