

Scottish Government submission of 12 December 2022

PE1962/C: Stop motorhomes parking overnight out with formal campsites, caravan parks and Aires

The Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee wrote to the Scottish Government on 25 November upon considering the above petition at its meeting on 23 November 2022. It asked the following: *The Committee asks the Scottish Government to give consideration to the use of Aires as a facility for those traveling in motorhomes. The Committee would also welcome a view as to whether Aires would qualify for funding through the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund.*

Scottish Government Response

Please reassure the Petitions Committee that this is already being explored by the Scottish Government. A campervan and motorhome working group was set up to report to the Visitor Management Group in late 2022. It has pulled together key stakeholders to consider the unique challenges created by motorhome and campervan users in Scotland, particularly in rural areas. Facilities will be considered as part of this. Depending on the challenges they seek to address, and subject to meeting the funding criteria, aires may be eligible for funding from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund. It will be important to note that although there may be community ambitions to establish aires in some areas, applications must consider the impact on existing businesses which may be able to provide these services already. The sub-group will report its recommendations to the Visitor Management Steering Group in 2023.