

Petitioner submission of 23 February 2024

PE2056/B: Introduce legislation allowing Scottish Ministers to intervene on the hire of public land

We are fully aware that Scottish Government cannot, at the moment, intervene, this is why we have submitted the petition; it is the only option citizens have to achieve a badly needed reform to the law.

The Scottish Government, as well as the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, deal with Scotland-wide issues. Local authorities, as the Scottish Government response notes, deal with local issues. The subject of this petition is a Scotland-wide issue, and in my view falls squarely within the remit of the Scottish Government and the Committee. This is exactly how this should work, it is the whole point of having a Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee.

The Scottish Government response mentions the Verity House Agreement which became active in July 2023 and had already been breached in October 2023 by the Scottish Government but is now being quoted as if it is law, it is not. The Verity House Agreement is not a legal document and states this within the document, and it is unacceptable that the Government would defer to the Verity House Agreement, which looks no more than a behind closed doors agreement with no specifics or substance.

We are not asking local authorities for services, businesses such as ours pay for the hire of the land and associated event costs, giving councils the opportunity to raise funds for themselves, boost the local economy, and leave a positive social impact on the area. A situation where everybody wins.