

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

1st Meeting, 2021 (Session 6)

Wednesday 23 June 2021

Work programme

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to invite the Committee to consider and agree:
 - whether to hold an informal business planning session during the summer recess;
 - its approach to the consideration of referred petitions carried over from Session 5.

Business planning

2. At the end of a Parliamentary session, committees generally publish a Legacy Paper to pass on the knowledge and experience, both in terms of policy and Committee working practices. The Session 5 Public Petitions Committee's [Legacy Paper](#) can be found online.
3. It has also become common practice for committees to hold an informal meeting during the summer recess to consider forward work programmes and to receive briefings on policy issues relevant to their remit.
4. Given the nature of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, there is no specific subject area in which the Committee has overall responsibility for scrutiny of the Scottish Government. Policy-specific briefings are therefore unlikely to be of particular benefit in informing the Committee's work programme.
5. A business planning session would however provide the Committee with an opportunity to discuss its approach to the consideration of petitions, the Legacy Paper from its predecessor committee and the petitions process, including recent changes that were implemented during Session 5.
6. Importantly, such a session would also provide an opportunity for the Committee to consider the implications of its extended remit which incorporates the following addition to the previous remit of the Public Petitions Committee—

“To consider and report on public policy or undertake post-legislative scrutiny through the use of deliberative democracy, Citizen’s Assemblies or other forms of participative engagement.”

7. Given current restrictions, a modified approach to the logistical arrangements for any such business planning session may be required. It is suggested that one option would be for the Committee to get together in a socially distanced way in the Parliament building. This would allow any other attendees to attend either in-person or remotely. Alternatively, such a session could be conducted entirely virtually or in a hybrid format if preferred by members.

Consideration of petitions

8. The previous Public Petitions Committee agreed not to consider any new petitions lodged after 8 January 2021. A similar approach to the setting of a cut-off date was been taken in previous sessions. This was to enable the Committee to focus on petitions already on its work programme before the campaign recess period commenced on 25 March 2021. It was also recognised that there would have been insufficient time available to consider any written submissions received for these petitions prior to the campaign recess period.
9. A total of 15 new petitions were lodged in Session 5 in the period between 8 January and 25 March 2021 and will be considered by the Committee in due course.
10. In addition, 10 petitions that were on the previous Public Petitions Committee’s work programme (often referred to as “continued petitions”) were carried over from Session 5 and will be taken forward by the Committee.
11. Since the beginning of Session 6, a total of 5 new petitions have been formally lodged. A further 11 petitions are currently gathering signatures before they are lodged.
12. The Committee may also wish to note that 15 petitions that were referred to subject committees during Session 5 have also been carried over into the new session of Parliament.
13. The Committee may therefore wish to consider referring the 15 petitions carried over from Session 5 to the appropriate subject committees in line with the Session 5 Public Petitions Committee’s recommendation. This would create more capacity for the Committee to concentrate its efforts on the high volume of new and continued petitions already on its work programme. It will also allow subject committees to take account of these petitions as part of their respective work planning processes.
14. Annexe A to this paper provides a list of these petitions, together with a recommendation for a referral to the relevant new subject committee in Session 6.

Action

15. The Committee is invited to consider and agree—

- To hold a business planning session during the summer recess and to indicate whether there are any specific issues members would wish to discuss;
- To refer the 15 petitions (detailed at Annexe A) that were previously considered by subject committees in Session 5 to the most appropriate new subject committee, in line with the Session 5 Public Petitions Committee's recommendation.

Clerk to the Committee

June 2021

ANNEXE A – REFERRED PETITIONS CARRIED OVER FROM SESSION 5

PE1370: Justice for Megrahi

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to open an independent inquiry into the 2001 Kamp van Zeist conviction of Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed al-Megrahi for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in December 1988.
PPC Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Justice Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open as due to legal proceedings that were ongoing for much of session 5, it was unable to consider it fully. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Justice Committee

PE1458: Register of Interests for members of Scotland's Judiciary

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to create a Register of Pecuniary Interests of Judges Bill (as is currently being considered in New Zealand's Parliament) or amend present legislation to require all members of the Judiciary in Scotland to submit their interests & hospitality received to a publicly available Register of Interests.
PPC Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Justice Committee in Session 5. That Committee agree to keep the petition open as due to pressures of competing work, it was unable to seek further evidence on the issues raised by the petition, as had been planned. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Justice Committee

PE1490: Control of wild goose numbers

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to address the problems created by increasing populations of wild geese in the crofting areas as a matter of priority; reassess its decision to stop funding existing goose management programmes, and assign additional resources to Crop Protection and Adaptive Management programmes to ensure this threat to the future of crofting is averted.
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open so its successor committee can take evidence from the Scottish Government about its review and about how it plans to resource goose management in the next session. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

PE1548: National Guidance on Restraint and Seclusion in Schools

Petition summary	<p>Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce National Guidance on the use of restraint and seclusion in all schools; this guidance should support the principles of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last resort - where it is deemed necessary, restraint should be the minimum required to deal with the agreed risk, for the minimum amount of time ○ Appropriate supervision of the child at all times, including during “time out” or seclusion. ○ Reducing the use of solitary exclusion and limiting the time it is used for (e.g. maximum time limits) ○ No use of restraints that are cruel, humiliating, painful and unnecessary or not in line with trained techniques. ○ Accountability of teaching and support staff for their actions; this should include recording every incident
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	<p>leading to the use of seclusion or restraint and monitoring of this by the local authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regular training for staff in how to avoid the use of restraint ○ Where restraint is unavoidable training in appropriate restraint techniques by British Institute of Learning Disability accredited providers and no use of restraint by untrained staff. <p>2. Appoint a specific agency (either Education Scotland or possibly the Care Inspectorate) to monitor the support and care given in non-educational areas including the evaluation of the use of restraint and seclusion of children with special needs in local authority, voluntary sector or private special schools.</p>
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Education and Skills Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open and to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills for an update. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Education, Children and Young People Committee

PE1668: Improving literacy standards in schools through research-informed reading instruction

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to i) provide national guidance, support, and professional learning for teachers in research-informed reading instruction, specifically systematic synthetic phonics; ii) ensure teacher training institutions train new teachers in research-informed reading instruction, specifically systematic synthetic phonics.
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Education and Skills Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open pending a future work programme discussion. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.

Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Education, Children and Young People Committee
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PE1676: The Land Registration etc. (Scotland) Act 2012

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the Land Registration etc. (Scotland) Act 2012, particularly with regard to i) the cadastral map and ii) the provision of supporting materials such as death certificates.
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open and noted the importance of the legislation. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	To be determined

PE1692: Inquiry into the human rights impact of GIRFEC policy and data processing

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to initiate an independent public inquiry into the impact on human rights of the routine gathering and sharing of citizens' personal information on which its Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) policy relies.
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Education and Skills Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open and to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills for an update. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Education, Children and Young People Committee

PE1743: Amend the law to protect the rights of pre-1989 Scottish Secure Tenants

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend the Rent (Scotland) Act 1984 to prevent disproportionate rent increases being set for Scottish Secure Tenants.
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Local Government and Communities Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open as the Scottish Government has committed to examine further the extent of the issues raised in the petition and the implications of changing the law for both tenants and landlords. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

PE1747: Adequate funding to support children with additional support needs in all Scottish Schools

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide adequate funding to support children with additional support needs in all Scottish Schools (Primary, Secondary and Special).
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Education and Skills Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open given upcoming work on additional support needs and pending a future work programme discussions. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Education, Children and Young People Committee

PE1750: Independent Monitoring of Satellite tags fitted to raptors

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce independent monitoring of satellite tags fitted to raptor species, to assist the police and courts in
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	potential wildlife crime cases and to provide data transparency.
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open so its successor committee can monitor any progress made in respect of the issues raised in the petition. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

PE1758: End greyhound racing In Scotland

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to put an end to greyhound racing in Scotland.
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open to allow the petitioners to give evidence to its successor committee. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

PE1778: Review the Scottish Landlords Register scheme

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the effectiveness of the Scottish Landlords Register scheme.
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Local Government and Communities Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open as the Scottish Government intends to return to work it undertook as part of the Private Landlord registration (Information) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 to assess the effectiveness of the current statutory guidance and update it. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.

Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
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PE1787: The use of Makaton sign language in the legal system

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that all parts of the legal system use Makaton sign language.
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Equalities and Human Rights Committee in Session 5. That Committee noted how the issues raised in the petition, specifically around accessibility and inclusive communication, have come up in the course of its work during the latter part of this parliamentary session. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

PE1815: Translocate protected beavers to reduce licensed killing

Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to initiate a programme to translocate protected beavers to suitable habitat outside existing beaver range, to minimise the need to kill animals adversely impacting arable farmland.
Legacy Paper recommendation	This petition was referred to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee in Session 5. That Committee agreed to keep the petition open as due to pressures of competing work, it was unable to seek further evidence on the issues raised by the petition, as had been planned. We would suggest that future action on this Public Petitions Committee Public Petitions Committee: Session 5 Legacy Report, 2nd report, 2021 (Session 5) 24 petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6
Relevant subject Committee in Session 6	Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

PE1817: End Conversion Therapy

<p>Petition summary</p>	<p>Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ban the provision or promotion of LGBT+ conversion therapy in Scotland.</p>
<p>Legacy Paper recommendation</p>	<p>This petition was referred to the Equalities and Human Rights Committee in Session 5.. That Committee was clear in its views on the importance of the issues raised in the petition. We would suggest that future action on this petition could include referring it to the relevant subject committee in Session 6.</p>
<p>Relevant subject Committee in Session 6</p>	<p>Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee</p>