The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to consider agenda item 4 in private.

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

   - **PE1664** by Harry Huyton on behalf of OneKind on Greater protection for mountain hares. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and the petitioner.
   - **PE1672** by Hugh Paterson on Scottish Law Commission Report on Prescription. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and Registers of Scotland.
   - **PE1673** by James Mackie on Operation and running of child protection services in Scotland / **PE1675** by James Mackie on Attendance at Children's Hearings. In relation to PE1673, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Children’s Reporters Administration, the Association of Directors of Social Work, Who Cares? Scotland and Circle Scotland. The Committee also agreed to close PE1675 under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government has set out its view of the importance of a child or young person having a right to take part in decisions affecting them; that there are procedures in place to allow the excusal of a child or young person; and that the Government remains open to reviewing whether the current balance and tests are right for children and young people with work being taken forward by the Children’s
Hearings Improvement Partnership.
**PE1674** by Ellie Stirling on Managing the Cat Population in Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government. The Committee also agreed to write to the partner organisations of the Scottish Wildcat Action Plan and Professor Anna Meredith.
**PE1676** by Tony Rosser on The Land Registration etc. (Scotland) Act 2012. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Public Audit and Post-Legislative Scrutiny Committee under Rule 15.6.2 of Standing Orders.
**PE1677** by Dr Sarah Glynn on behalf of Scottish Unemployed Workers' Network on Make more money available to mitigate welfare cuts. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Social Security Committee under Rule 15.6.2 of Standing Orders.

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

**PE1689** by Jim Clark on Hepatitis C Treatment Targets in Scotland and took evidence from Jim Clark and Charles Gore, Chief Executive, The Hepatitis C Trust. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, NHS boards, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships and the Scottish Prison Service.

**PE1684** by James Swan on behalf of Whitburn and District Community Council on Composition of local authority executive committees. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and local authorities.

**PE1686** by Sean Clerkin on Homelessness crisis in Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, COSLA, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and Shelter Scotland.

**PE1687** by Jane Erskine on Regulation of fireworks displays in Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and the UK Government.

4. **Annual report (in private):** The Committee considered its draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 12 May 2017 to 11 May 2018. The Committee agreed to consider a further draft via correspondence.

5. **Consideration of a continued petition (in private):** The Committee considered evidence received to date on **PE1627** by Annette McKenzie on Consent for mental health treatment for people under 18 years of age.

The meeting closed at 11.03 am.

Catherine Fergusson
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5186
Email: petitions@parliament.scot