



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

7th Meeting, 2021 (Session 5)

Wednesday 24 March 2021

Present:

Maurice Corry
Tom Mason
David Torrance

Johann Lamont (Convener)
Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)

Also present: Jackson Carlaw (PE1517), Neil Findlay (PE1517), John Scott (PE1517, PE1610 and PE1657), Finlay Carson (PE1610 and PE1657) and Jackie Baillie (PE1651 and PE1841)

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 3 in private.
2. **Consideration of continued petitions:** The Committee considered the following continued petitions—

PE1517: Polypropylene Mesh Medical Devices. The Committee agreed to continue this petition and include it in its legacy paper for its successor Committee, along with a suggestion to refer the petition to the Health and Sport Committee.

PE1610: Upgrade the A75 and PE1657: A77 upgrade. The Committee agreed to continue these petitions and include them in its legacy paper for its successor Committee, along with a suggestion to seek updates from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity on the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2, and the First Minister on when a response will be received to the Convener's letter of 19 December 2019.

PE1651: Prescribed drug dependence and withdrawal. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Short Life Working Group on prescription medicine dependence and withdrawal produced draft recommendations which have been approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport; these draft

recommendations have been published as a public consultation which the petitioner can input into. The Committee also agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

PE1722: Parking charges at island lifeline ferry ports. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the majority of Island Strategic Group authorities have confirmed that free parking will be available at each of the lifeline ferry ports and should future parking charges be considered, an Island Communities Impact Assessment must first be completed by law.

PE1841: Allow a designated visitor into care homes. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government is actively considering how it can best support visiting in care homes, is regularly updating its advice to reflect the evolving evidence base and has recently published updated guidance on visiting care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee also agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs and the Covid-19 Committee.

3. **Legacy paper (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed its draft legacy report.

The meeting closed at 11.17 am.

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