PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

11th Meeting, 2019 (Session 5)

Thursday 6 June 2019

Present:

Rachael Hamilton
Johann Lamont (Convener)
Angus MacDonald (Deputy Convener)
Rona Mackay (Committee Substitute)
Brian Whittle

Also present: Elaine Smith (PE1463), Edward Mountain (PE1591) and Stuart McMillan (PE1707)

Apologies were received from David Torrance.

The meeting opened at 9.31 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—

PE1693 on Independent Water Ombudsman, and took evidence from Catherine Topley, Chief Executive, Richard Millar, Director of Infrastructure, Claire Lithgow, Director of Finance and Josie Saunders, Head of Corporate Affairs, Scottish Canals. The Committee agreed to reflect on the evidence heard at a future meeting.

PE1463 on Effective thyroid and adrenal testing, diagnosis and treatment. The Committee agreed to invite the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing to give evidence at a future meeting.

PE1545 on Residential care provision for the severely learning disabled. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

PE1591 on Major redesign of healthcare services in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the petitioners believe that the
recommendations of Sir Lewis Ritchie’s independent external view of out
of hours services in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross will be
implemented in full and are reassured that such implementation will take
precedence over aspects of the redesign of health and social care
proposals in north Skye. The Committee also agreed to write to the
Scottish Government.
PE1658 on Compensation for those who suffered a neurological disability
following administration of the Pluserix vaccine between 1988 and 1992.
The Committee agreed to close the petition on the basis that the action
called for in the petition, is a matter that is reserved and administered by
the UK Government, and the Scottish Government has re-stated its
position that it does not have any plans to offer ex gratia payments.
PE1689 on Hepatitis C Treatment Targets in Scotland. The Committee
agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.
PE1707 on Public Access Defibrillators. The Committee agreed to hold a
roundtable evidence session on the petition, and to delegate authority to
the clerks to identify which stakeholders the Committee should take
evidence from; and
PE1712 on Soul and conscience letters. The Committee agreed to write to
the British Medical Association Scotland. It also agreed to write to the
petitioner to seek their views in relation to the written submissions received
to date.

3. Consideration of a continued petition (in private): The Committee
considered a draft report on petition PE1319 by William Smith and Scott
Robertson on Improving youth football in Scotland. The Committee agreed to
invite the Scottish Football Association and the Children and Young People’s
Commissioner Scotland to give evidence at a future meeting. It also agreed to
consider a revised draft report, in private, at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.27 am.

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