



## PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**3rd Meeting, 2021 (Session 5)**

**Wednesday 10 February 2021**

Present:

Maurice Corry  
Tom Mason  
David Torrance

Johann Lamont (Convener)  
Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)

Also present: Jackson Carlaw (PE1517), Neil Findlay (PE1517 and PE1841) and John Scott (PE1517)

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

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

PE1517: Polypropylene Mesh Medical Devices. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport. The Committee also agreed to write to the Health and Sport Committee.

PE1707: Public Access Defibrillators. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the majority of the witnesses the Committee heard from during the evidence session did not agree with the aim of the petition to place public access defibrillators in all new or newly renovated buildings with a floorspace of 7500m<sup>2</sup> and a Members' Bill seeking the mandatory registration of automated external defibrillators has been lodged in Parliament.

PE1722: Parking charges at island lifeline ferry ports. The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands.

PE1775: Introduce statutory allergy care legislation in nurseries and schools. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government and COSLA have stated that there are sufficient standards, provision and guidance for local authorities, schools, early learning and childcare settings and NHS Boards, and therefore statutory requirements are not necessary. The Committee also agreed to write to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet

Secretary for Education and Skills.

PE1780: Consultation on the closure of large shops on New Year's Day. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government is engaging with unions and retailers about the action called for in the petition.

PE1789: Learning difficulties and disability qualifications. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Minister for Mental Health has outlined Scottish Government strategies for addressing the issues associated with children and parents with learning disabilities/difficulties and other behavioural problems.

PE1820: Compulsory bereavement education in schools. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Curriculum for Excellence is not a statutory curriculum prescribed to the level of individual courses that must be followed by each individual school, schools are encouraged to apply their own judgement, the National Bereavement Coordinator is undertaking work with schools and with the petitioner directly to develop a curriculum around bereavement, with roundtable evidence sessions due to begin in January 2021 and education and training around death, dying and bereavement may be taken forward as part of the work delivering and implementing the recommendations of the personal and social education review.

PE1836: Expand the remit of the Care Inspectorate to investigate individual child protection complaints. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government does not support the action called for in the petition as it believes it would pose a risk to local accountability and multi-agency working, would undermine legal processes, and that there are existing powers and duties in place to investigate such complaints and key stakeholders also do not support the action called for in the petition.

PE1837: Provide clear direction and investment for autism support. The Committee agreed to continue this petition and include it in its legacy paper for its successor Committee, along with a suggestion to take evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport on the various concerns raised in written submissions received on the petition.

PE1839: Review maternity models in remote and rural areas. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government has confirmed a number of work streams, relevant to the petition, are currently underway including discussions with regards to changes in rural service provision and arrangements for obstetric transfers across Scotland, the development of an in-utero transfer risk assessment tool which has a specific focus on supporting midwives in remote and rural areas in their decision-making capacity to transfer women who are threatened with pre-term labour and work to establish and expand specialist perinatal services in all health boards.

PE1840: Addressing racism in Scottish education. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Rule 15.7 of Standing Orders on the basis that the Scottish Government has initiated a new programme of work focussed on curriculum reform, diversity in the teaching profession, racism and racist bullying and professional learning and leadership which will explore the issues raised by the petition, Education Scotland delivers training at all

levels of teaching that supports the development of anti-racist practice and schools and local authorities have their own procedures for recording racist incidents, either through their own systems or SEEMIS, the school management information system. The Committee also agreed to write to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

PE1841: Allow a designated visitor into care homes. The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport. The Committee also agreed to write to the National Clinical Director of Healthcare Quality and Strategy, Scottish Government.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.

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