Official Report
Aithisg Oifigeil

Public Petitions Committee

Comataidh an nan Athchuingean Poblach

Thursday 25 June 2026

Session 7

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Thursday 25 June 2026

CONTENTS

	Col.
INTERESTS	1
DEPUTY CONVENER	2
DECISION ON TAKING BUSINESS IN PRIVATE	3

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE
1st Meeting 2026, Session 7

CONVENER

*Paul Sweeney (Glasgow) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

David Torrance (Kirkcaldy) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Julie MacDougall (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Reform)
*Cara McKee (West Scotland) (Green)
*Marie McNair (Clydebank and Milngavie) (SNP)

*attended

LOCATION

The Adam Smith Room (CR5)

Scottish Parliament

Public Petitions Committee

Thursday 25 June 2026

[The Convener opened the meeting at 10:00]

Interests

The Convener (Paul Sweeney): Good morning, and welcome to the first meeting of the Public Petitions Committee in session 7 of the Scottish Parliament. I remind all members to ensure that their devices are on silent, and that all notifications are turned off on electronic devices during the meeting.

I have received apologies for today's meeting from David Torrance and Julie MacDougall.

The first item on the agenda is declarations of interest. I refer members to the first paper in the pack.

Members should declare any relevant interests at the outset of the session. We will start with my declaration of interests before moving to the next member, and so on. I have no relevant interests to declare in relation to this committee's business.

Cara McKee (West Scotland) (Green): The only thing that might be relevant is that I used to work for North Ayrshire Council. Also, having had a look at the petitions that are currently extant, I should say that—long ago—I worked for Mary Renfrew, who was involved in midwifery research.

Marie McNair (Clydebank and Milngavie) (SNP): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Deputy Convener

10:01

The Convener: The next item on the agenda is the election of a deputy convener. As the Parliament has specified in S7M-00269, only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible to be chosen as deputy convener of the Public Petitions Committee. I remind members that eligible members can nominate themselves, or be nominated by another member, and I now invite nominations for deputy convener.

Marie McNair: I nominate David Torrance.

David Torrance was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: I congratulate David Torrance on his election as deputy convener. I look forward to working with him—he is a veteran of this committee and is well associated with it, so it is great to have him back on board.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

10:02

The Convener: The next item of business is a decision on whether to take item 4 in private. Do we agree to take that item in private?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: That concludes the public part of today's meeting, and we will now move into private session.

10:02

Meeting continued in private until 10:36.

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