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## **Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee**

# **Annual Report of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee 2025-2026**



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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Meetings</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Membership changes</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The work of the Committee on Petitions</b>	<b>4</b>
Thematic evidence sessions	6
<b>The Public Petitions System</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Case studies</b>	<b>10</b>
PE2121: Run a targeted roadside litter awareness campaign	10
PE1859: Retain falconers' rights to practise upland falconry in Scotland	10
<b>Equal opportunities</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Annex A: List of Petitions considered by the Committee during the Parliamentary year</b>	<b>13</b>
Continued petitions considered by the Committee	13
New petitions considered by the Committee	17

# Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

To consider public petitions addressed to the Parliament in accordance with these Rules (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A) and, in particular, to—

- (a) decide in a case of dispute whether a petition is admissible;
- (b) decide what action should be taken upon an admissible public petition; and
- (c) keep under review the operation of the petitions system.
- (d) consider and report on public policy or undertake post-legislative scrutiny through the use of deliberative democracy, Citizen's Assemblies or other forms of participative engagement.

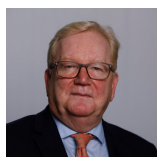


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# Committee Membership



**Convener**  
**Jackson Carlaw**  
Scottish Conservative  
and Unionist Party



**Deputy Convener**  
**David Torrance**  
Scottish National Party



**Fergus Ewing**  
Independent



**Maurice Golden**  
Scottish Conservative  
and Unionist Party



**Davy Russell**  
Scottish Labour

# Introduction

1. This annual report covers the period 13 May 2025 to 8 April 2026.

## Meetings

2. During the Parliamentary year, the Committee held 17 meetings. Of those, 5 were entirely in public and 12 included a mixture of public and private items.



Committee meetings

# Membership changes

3. The following change to the Committee's membership occurred during the reporting year:
  - On 2 September 2025, Davy Russell replaced Foysol Choudhury as a member of the Committee.

## The work of the Committee on Petitions

4. Over the course of the Parliamentary year, the Committee considered a total of 164 petitions on a wide range of issues. Of these, 94 were continued petitions (i.e. petitions first considered before the start of the Parliamentary year) and 70 were new petitions (first considered during the Parliamentary year). Most petitions are considered on a number of occasions. A full list of petitions considered is included in Annexe A.



**164** Petitions  
considered

5. Of those petitions considered by the Committee, 159 were closed. This is higher than most years as the Committee focused on concluding work on petitions where possible ahead of the end of Session 6.
6. Petitions may be lodged by individuals or organisations. This Parliamentary year, 49 petitions were published. Of those, 42 were submitted by individual petitioners and seven were submitted by groups or organisations.
7. Since the beginning of the session, the Committee has sought a SPICe briefing and an initial submission from the Scottish Government on every new petition before the petition is included on the Committee's agenda. This has allowed the Committee to make informed decisions on new petitions at their first consideration. This approach has worked well, and the Committee is grateful to the Scottish Government for continuing to engage positively with these requests for information.
8. The majority of the information gathered by the Committee is through written submissions. This Parliamentary year, submissions were received from:
  - Petitioners
  - the Scottish Government

- relevant organisations with an interest in the petition
  - members of the public.
9. The Committee published 362 written submissions during the Parliamentary year. This figure includes the initial submissions received from the Scottish Government on every new petition.



Written evidence  
received

10. The Committee also heard oral evidence on petitions during the Parliamentary year. Evidence sessions were conducted both in hybrid and in person enabling the Committee to hear from a wide range of people and organisations. The Committee heard from 31 people over 8 meetings.



# 31

Number of people  
who gave evidence

11. This Parliamentary year the Committee heard oral evidence on the following petitions:
- PE1876: Accurately record the sex of people charged or convicted of rape or attempted rape
  - PE2099: Stop the proposed centralisation of specialist neonatal units in NHS Scotland
  - PE2105: Safeguard Scottish Listed Buildings at risk of unnecessary demolition.

The Committee also held a number of thematic sessions.

## Thematic evidence sessions

12. Thematic sessions are designed to help progress the aims of petitions which, while having different specific asks within them, raise recurring or similar issues across a broader theme. The sessions allow the Committee to raise the overarching issues directly with Scottish Ministers, whilst also being able to seek clarification or updates on individual petitions.
13. During the Parliamentary year, the Committee held five thematic evidence sessions.
14. Youth crime - [25 June 2025](#). This session incorporated two witness panels, firstly with the Lord Advocate and representatives from the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, and then with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs. Petitions covered in this session were:
- PE1947: Address Scotland's culture of youth violence
  - PE2064: Ensure that under 16s charged with rape are treated as adults in the

criminal justice system

15. Healthcare - [24 September 2025](#). This was an evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care. Petitions relevant to this session, and considered under a sub-theme heading, were:

*Patient experience*

- PE1723: Essential tremor treatment in Scotland
- PE1871: Full review of mental health services
- PE2017: Extend the period that specialist perinatal mental health support is made available beyond one year
- PE2070: Stop same-day-only GP appointment systems

*Diagnostic and treatment pathways*

- PE1952: Specialist services for patients with autonomic dysfunction
- PE2031: Provide insulin pumps to all children with type 1 diabetes in Scotland
- PE2038: Commission suitable NHS services for people with hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and hyper mobility spectrum disorders
- PE2080: Implement the recommended screening guidelines for people with Li Fraumeni Syndrome
- PE2086: Recognise the vaccine injured and offer appropriate treatment

*Capacity, skills and training*

- PE2053: Stop the cuts to community link workers and help secure their longterm future within GP practice teams
- PE2078: Introduce mandatory licensing and inspection of private ambulance service providers
- PE2091: Provide funding to have a CAHMS worker and a nurse based within Scottish high schools
- PE2126: Ensure abortion services are available up to 24 weeks across all parts of Scotland
- PE2128: Increase funding for post mastectomy (delayed) breast reconstructions and ensure that waiting time information is accurate

*Sustainability of funding and health service infrastructure*

- PE2125: End the pause on new NHS building projects and prioritise capital funding for primary care buildings

*Post-Covid-19 impacts and response*

- PE2071: Take action to protect people from airborne infections in health and social care settings
16. Emergency cardiac care - [29 October 2025](#). An evidence session with representatives from British Heart Foundation Scotland, Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland, and the Scottish Ambulance Service. Petitions relevant to this session were:
- PE1989: Increase defibrillators in public spaces and workplaces
  - PE2067: Improve data on young people affected by conditions causing Sudden Cardiac Death
  - PE2101: Provide Defibrillators for all Primary and Secondary Schools in Scotland
17. Emergency cardiac and stroke care - [12 November 2025](#). An evidence session with the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health. Petitions relevant to this session were:
- PE1989: Increase defibrillators in public spaces and workplaces
  - PE2048: Review the FAST stroke awareness campaign
  - PE2067: Improve data on young people affected by conditions causing Sudden Cardiac Death
  - PE2101: Provide Defibrillators for all Primary and Secondary Schools in Scotland
18. Energy - [14 January 2026](#). An evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy. Petitions relevant to this session were:
- PE1864: Increase the ability of communities to influence planning decisions for onshore windfarms
  - PE1885: Make offering Community Shared Ownership mandatory for all windfarm development planning proposals
  - PE2095: Improve the public consultation processes for energy infrastructure projects
  - PE2109: Halt any further pump storage hydro schemes on Scottish lochs holding wild Atlantic salmon
  - PE2157: Update planning advice for energy storage issues and ensure that it includes clear guidance for the location of battery energy storage systems near residences and communities
  - PE2159: Halt the production of hydrogen from freshwater
  - PE2160: Introduce an energy strategy

# The Public Petitions System

19. Part of the Committee's remit is to "keep under review the operation of the petitions system".
20. At its meeting on 21 May 2025, the Committee agreed its approach to new petitions prior to dissolution, including the cut-off date of 10 October for considering new petitions. On 24 September 2025, the Committee further considered its approach and agreed a form of words to communicate this to petitioners.
21. At its meeting on 14 January 2026, the Committee agreed changes to the determination on the proper form of petitions. The changes agreed are designed to assist petitioners in meeting the admissibility criteria. Changes identified, which will take effect from the beginning of Session 7, include guidance on:
  - ensuring the petition is clear in what it wants to achieve and what action it is asking to be taken to achieve this
  - clarifying the purpose of taking previous action
  - the naming of third parties
  - matters which another body (not the Government or Parliament) is responsible for
  - the use of personal experience.

## Case studies

### PE2121: Run a targeted roadside litter awareness campaign

22. [Petition PE2121](#) called on the Government to run a campaign targeted principally at companies to raise awareness of the harms caused by roadside litter and the penalties that could be brought against responsible parties.
23. After speaking with the Petitioner to understand her main concern, the clerks worked with the Petitioner to identify a clear and actionable ask for the Scottish Government.
24. The petition was one part of the Petitioner's wider campaigning work on this issue. The Petitioner had worked in her community, made representations to her councillors and engaged with her MSP. This formed a strong basis for the petition, as the Petitioner had information to share about her previous efforts to address the issue and was able to secure an MSP's support for the petition.
25. The Committee wrote to Transport Scotland bringing its attention to the petition and its aims. In response, Transport Scotland recognised that there had been an increase in discarded litter across trunk roads and agreed with the Petitioner's call for a campaign to discourage people from dropping litter. In that communication, Transport Scotland confirmed that it would work with relevant groups to run a campaign targeted at companies and the public to raise awareness of the harms caused by roadside litter, and the legislation that is in place to penalise those who drop litter.
26. The petition was successful in achieving its goal, and demonstrates the value in the pre-publication work that takes place between the clerks and petitioners. This example also shows the value in petitions as a tool that can be used as part of wider community and campaigning efforts.

### PE1859: Retain falconers' rights to practise upland falconry in Scotland

27. [Petition PE1859](#) asked the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend the Animals and Wildlife Act 2020 to allow mountain hares to be hunted for the purposes of falconry.
28. Having considered the petition on multiple occasions, including oral evidence sessions with the Petitioner and the Scottish Government, the Committee had sought to hold a Chamber debate on the issues raised in the petition in this reporting year.
29. In advance of the debate, however, during Stage 3 proceedings on the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill on 27 and 28 January 2026, the [Parliament agreed to an amendment lodged by Willie Rennie MSP](#), after he had received representations

from the Petitioner and worked with him to come up with an amendment that allows licences to be issued to take mountain hares for the purposes of falconry. The Bill, incorporating the amendment, was passed on Thursday 29 January 2026.

30. At its meeting on [11 February 2026](#), the Committee agreed to close the petition on the basis that the aim of the petition had been secured through primary legislation. In closing the petition, the Committee recognised the efforts and impact of the Petitioner, who reflected in a [written submission on his experience of the petitions process](#).
31. The Committee considers this is an excellent example of a Petitioner using the awareness raised through their petition to explore other avenues within the Parliamentary process, from having the issue raised with the First Minister at a meeting of the Conveners Group, to working with MSPs across parties at each stage of the legislative process.

## Equal opportunities

32. The Committee is keen to ensure that the petition process is made accessible to the widest range of people. To achieve this, the Committee seeks to remove any barriers that may prevent people from creating a petition and facilitates additional support for petitioners throughout the process where required. Committee clerks have provided over-the-phone support and communicated in writing with those who find digital communication difficult.

# Annex A: List of Petitions considered by the Committee during the Parliamentary year

## Continued petitions considered by the Committee

1. PE1723: Essential tremor treatment in Scotland
2. PE1859: Retain falconers' rights to practise upland falconry in Scotland
3. PE1864: Increase the ability of communities to influence planning decisions for onshore windfarms
4. PE1865: Suspend all surgical mesh and fixation devices
5. PE1871: Full review of mental health services
6. PE1876: Accurately record the sex of people charged or convicted of rape or attempted rape
7. PE1885: Make offering Community Shared Ownership mandatory for all windfarm development planning proposals
8. PE1887: Create an Unborn Victims of Violence Act
9. PE1900: Access to prescribed medication for detainees in police custody
10. PE1911: Review of Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 as it relates to post-mortems
11. PE1933: Allow the Fornethy Survivores to access Scotland's Redress Scheme
12. PE1934: Develop an educational resource on gender-based violence for all year groups in High School
13. PE1946: To call on the Scottish Government to pay all charges for homeless temporary accommodation
14. PE1947: Address Scotland's culture of youth violence
15. PE1952: Specialist services for patients with autonomic dysfunction
16. PE1953: Review Education Support staff roles
17. PE1962: Stop motorhomes parking overnight out with formal campsites, caravan parks and Aires
18. PE1976: Backdate council tax discounts for dementia to the date of GP certification
19. PE1979: Establish an independent inquiry and an independent national whistleblowing officer to investigate concerns about the alleged mishandling of child safeguarding enquiries by public bodies

20. PE1985: Evaluate Garages to Homes Developments
21. PE1988: Review the process for disposal of household raw sewage
22. PE1989: Increase defibrillators in public spaces and workplaces
23. PE1992: Dual the A9 and improve road safety
24. PE1993: Reform the financial support for social work students on work placements
25. PE1995: Improve support for victims of spiking
26. PE1999: Fully implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
27. PE2006: Review and simplify the legislation in relation to dismissal of property factors
28. PE2017: Extend the period that specialist perinatal mental health support is made available beyond one year
29. PE2018: Recognise the value of swimming pools and provide financial relief to help keep pools open
30. PE2020: Provide fertility treatment to single women
31. PE2025: Improve the support available to victims of domestic violence, who have been forced to flee their home
32. PE2028: Extend the concessionary bus travel scheme to include people seeking asylum in Scotland
33. PE2031: Provide insulin pumps to all children with type 1 diabetes in Scotland
34. PE2033: Introduce a full ban on disposable vapes
35. PE2038: Commission suitable NHS services for people with hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and hyper mobility spectrum disorders
36. PE2039: Fair pay to student nurses while on placement
37. PE2041: Exempt community healthcare staff from parking charges
38. PE2048: Review the FAST stroke awareness campaign
39. PE2053: Stop the cuts to community link workers and help secure their long-term future within GP practice teams
40. PE2056: Introduce legislation allowing Scottish Ministers to intervene on the hire of public land
41. PE2061: Require solicitors to ensure capacity of vulnerable individuals by having a medical professional co-sign legal documents
42. PE2062: Introduce a National Screening Programme for Prostate Cancer
43. PE2064: Ensure that under 16s charged with rape are treated as adults in the criminal

justice system

44. PE2067: Improve data on young people affected by conditions causing Sudden Cardiac Death
45. PE2070: Stop same-day-only GP appointment systems
46. PE2071: Take action to protect people from airborne infections in health and social care settings
47. PE2073: Ensure accurate information is used when issuing court summons
48. PE2074: Increase local government funding to help protect the vulnerable elderly population and prevent the closure of care homes
49. PE2075: Prioritise local participation in planning decisions
50. PE2078: Introduce mandatory licencing and inspection of private ambulance service providers
51. PE2080: Implement the recommended screening guidelines for people with Li Fraumeni Syndrome
52. PE2081: Make chronic kidney disease a key clinical priority
53. PE2084: Allow alkaline hydrolysis
54. PE2085: Introduce a statutory definition of residency for Fatal Accident Inquiries into the deaths of Scots abroad
55. PE2086: Recognise the vaccine injured and offer appropriate treatment
56. PE2087: Pass a law making exercising a dog in a cemetery an offence
57. PE2088: Help eliminate cervical cancer through improved and at home HPV testing
58. PE2089: Stop More National Parks in Scotland
59. PE2091: Provide funding to have a CAHMS worker and a nurse based within Scottish high schools
60. PE2093: Review and update the Scottish Ministerial Code
61. PE2095: Improve the public consultation processes for energy infrastructure projects
62. PE2098: Provide essential investment in the Gaelic language to secure its future
63. PE2099: Stop the proposed centralisation of specialist neonatal units in NHS Scotland
64. PE2101: Provide Defibrillators for all Primary and Secondary Schools in Scotland
65. PE2102: Require anyone found guilty of rape or sexual assault to be registered as a sex offender
66. PE2103: Legislate to standardise the prescribed learning hours for Primary and Secondary schools in Scotland

67. PE2105: Safeguard Scottish Listed Buildings at risk of unnecessary demolition
68. PE2106: Prohibit mobile phone use in Scottish schools
69. PE2107: Use more money recovered from the proceeds of crime to support community-based charities that train animals to assist in the detection of drugs
70. PE2108: Obtain a second medical opinion before detainment under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003
71. PE2109: Halt any further pump storage hydro schemes on Scottish lochs holding wild Atlantic salmon
72. PE2110: Protect wild wrasse stocks
73. PE2111: Fund early learning and childcare from 9 months
74. PE2112: Conduct an independent review of childcare costs and availability in Scotland
75. PE2113: Provide support to RAAC-affected communities
76. PE2116: Accelerate the implementation of bus franchising powers
77. PE2118: Review and restructure Scotland's flood risk management approach and operations
78. PE2120: Permanently remove peak fare pricing from ScotRail services
79. PE2121: Run a targeted roadside litter awareness campaign
80. PE2125: End the pause on new NHS building projects and prioritise capital funding for primary care buildings
81. PE2126: Ensure abortion services are available up to 24 weeks across all parts of Scotland
82. PE2127: Develop a new Digital Connectivity Plan for the Highlands and Islands
83. PE2128: Increase funding for post mastectomy (delayed) breast reconstructions and ensure that waiting time information is accurate
84. PE2129: Standardise criteria and consultations for assessing demand for denominational schools
85. PE2130: Make it illegal to remove all the hair from a horse's tail
86. PE2131: Grant Scottish rivers, including the River Clyde, the legal right to personhood
87. PE2132: Publish a timeline for the dualling of the A96 between Inverness and Nairn by Easter 2025
88. PE2133: Expand ScotRail's Inter7City routes to include Dunfermline
89. PE2135: Implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Scottish legislation

90. PE2137: Fair regulation for non-medical aesthetic injectors
91. PE2139: Automatic expulsion for children charged with committing a crime against another child
92. PE2140: Introduce a parking badge for pregnant women
93. PE2146: Allow the use of privately sourced donor eggs in NHS funded IVF treatment
94. PE2147: Create more women-only homeless accommodation that protects and meets the specific needs of women

## **New petitions considered by the Committee**

1. PE2138: Make publicly owned buildings accessible for people with colour blindness
2. PE2141: Support the neurodiverse community by providing funding for psychoeducation
3. PE2142: Review the policy on school commencement and deferred school entry in Scotland
4. PE2143: Introduce legislation to require all landlords to tackle damp and mould to specified standards
5. PE2144: Ban the sale and use of artificial sweeteners in food and drinks
6. PE2145: Bring in compulsory microchipping for cats in Scotland
7. PE2148: Improve Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to Adult Mental Health Services transition
8. PE2149: Install speed cameras near schools
9. PE2150: Amend the Scottish Housing Regulator's mandate or create a body to protect owners of ex-council properties
10. PE2151: Grant protected status to primitive goat species in the Scottish Borders
11. PE2152: Review and update the Home Report system to ensure it protects both the seller and the buyer
12. PE2153: Reduce council tax by 50% for single persons
13. PE2154: Ensure planning consideration for equestrian accessibility
14. PE2155: Improve support for people trying to give up e-cigarettes and vaping
15. PE2156: Improve access to ADHD diagnosis and treatment across Scotland
16. PE2157: Update planning advice for energy storage issues and ensure it includes guidance for location near residences

17. PE2158: Introduce a maximum temperature for serving hot liquids to children in childcare settings
18. PE2159: Halt the production of hydrogen from freshwater
19. PE2160: Introduce an energy strategy
20. PE2161: Extend the time period for complaints through SPSO for neurodivergent people to two years
21. PE2162: Prevent strangers from filming or photographing children in public play parks
22. PE2163: Develop guidance on child contact domestic abuse
23. PE2164: Ban all non-essential single-use plastics
24. PE2165: Raise awareness of and provide training for Functional Neurological Disorder (FND)
25. PE2166: Establish a standardised timeframe for civil proceedings in child custody cases
26. PE2167: Stop the pavement parking ban for Scottish roads built before 2019
27. PE2168: Guarantee Legal Aid for “Death or Serious Injury” victims in cases against Police Scotland
28. PE2169: Facilitate a review and upgrade of the teaching resource “Palestine and Israel, understanding the conflict”
29. PE2170: Abolish the General Teaching Council for Scotland
30. PE2171: Stop the use of prisons for punishment and focus them on public protection
31. PE2172: Allow late proposals to alter the Council Tax Valuation Band in exceptional circumstances
32. PE2173: Ban ultra-processed foods in school meals
33. PE2174: Stop council tax debt collection
34. PE2175: Immediate ban on the sale and use of disposable (instant) barbeques
35. PE2176: Introduce penalties for failing to comply with Mental Welfare Commission recommendations
36. PE2177: Support and fund mobility services
37. PE2178: Introduce mandatory latex labelling for food products
38. PE2179: Strengthen veto powers when assessing Business Improvement District proposals
39. PE2180: Review the procedures and timelines for the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland
40. PE2181: Remove teachers’ ability to backdate and alter school records

41. PE2182: Review the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act and introduce a minimum sentence for severe offences
42. PE2183: Make Suicide Awareness and Prevention training mandatory for high school students
43. PE2184: Provide BID levy relief to charities and non-profit organisations
44. PE2185: Introduce stronger safeguards around the use of digital material in court proceedings
45. PE2186: Review the Personal Footcare Guidance for equity of access in rural areas
46. PE2187: Reinstate 6 monthly dental check-ups for state pensioners
47. PE2188: Extend the National Entitlement Card scheme to include ferry travel for those aged 60+
48. PE2189: Remove legal protected status for gulls to help reduce numbers in residential areas
49. PE2190: Hold an inquiry into grooming gangs in Scotland
50. PE2191: Review legislation to strengthen the Scottish Outdoor Access Code
51. PE2192: Prevent domestic abusers from using bankruptcy to escape debt
52. PE2193: Address dangerous delays in paediatric cancer diagnostics
53. PE2194: Amend the Adults with Incapacity Act to prevent abuse of power of attorney
54. PE2195: Establish a kindergarten stage in Scottish education
55. PE2196: Address early sexual offending in Scotland
56. PE2197: Allow more survivors of care abuse to access redress
57. PE2198: Establish a standardised and fair public participation process for councils
58. PE2199: Facilitate access to emergency telephone services for remote communities
59. PE2200: Provide a sustainable funding model for Scotland's colleges
60. PE2201: Require parents/carers to be notified by the end of the school day when an incident occurs
61. PE2202: Stop the Guga Hunt
62. PE2203: Make schools safe for pupils with allergies
63. PE2204: Create a national database to record endometriosis treatment outcomes
64. PE2205: Extend access to justice by reforming equality and human rights claim rules
65. PE2206: Review the weighting for single track roads in road maintenance funding

66. PE2207: Create a pilot court to try Russian war criminals with Ukraine
67. PE2208: Mandate collection and publication of child sexual offender data
68. PE2209: Make CCTV mandatory in all taxis and private hire vehicles
69. PE2210: Improve access to local healthcare in rural communities
70. PE2211: Follow the science and broaden eligibility for Covid vaccines

