

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee
Wednesday 24 September 2025
14th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

Healthcare petitions

Introduction

1. [At its meeting on 5 March 2025, the Committee agreed to take evidence on thematic healthcare issues in Scotland that have been raised in petitions.](#)
2. The Committee will not be considering individual healthcare petitions; rather, it will be focusing on overarching themes raised across a number of petitions.
3. An extract from the Official Report of the Committee's decision to take evidence on thematic healthcare issues in Scotland is provided at **Annexe A**.
4. [All live petitions can be found on the petitions website.](#)
5. At today's meeting the Committee will hear evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.

Action

6. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

Clerks to the Committee
September 2025

Annexe A: Extract from Official Report of Committee decision to take oral evidence on thematic healthcare issues

Foyso Choudhury: I am sure that, like me, colleagues are getting emails from people who have long Covid. Can we invite the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to come before us and give evidence?

The Convener: I welcome that sensible suggestion, Mr Choudhury.

Marie McNair: That is a good suggestion, but we could wait until we receive a response from the cabinet secretary, then maybe invite him to attend.

Foyso Choudhury: I was thinking about the time that we have left.

The Convener: Yes, we are running out of time in this parliamentary session, and we have quite a number of health-related petitions before us. Perhaps we could identify a basket of them for the cabinet secretary, with a view to taking evidence across a number of fronts in order to get to a satisfactory point on a number of petitions that remain open in this parliamentary session.

It might be sensible that that meeting takes place after the cabinet secretary has had an opportunity to consider what the response that we are seeking will be to this particular petition, but perhaps we could flag up the opportunity to have a broader discussion with the cabinet secretary about a number of open petitions.

Fergus Ewing: The idea of having a conjoined session that deals with various important outstanding health petitions and hearing from the cabinet secretary on all of them is sensible. Incidentally, that is what we are doing with Fiona Hyslop on transport issues. It would be a good use of the committee's time and save the cabinet secretary from repeatedly attending.

However, to take up Foyso Choudhury's suggestion, we should make it clear that, prior to the oral evidence session, we would benefit from receiving a written response from the cabinet secretary and ask that he provides that. Actually, was it Marie McNair who made that suggestion?

The Convener: Yes.

Fergus Ewing: In other words, we would have both. First, we have the written response, which we can study, and that will better inform our examination and evidence-taking session.

The Convener: I suspect that the session would be post summer recess, so we would expect to have the information by then. However, given that the Parliament will dissolve in a year's time, it would also allow us to bring all the various health petitions before us. Given the rate that we are able to discuss petitions, that would ensure that we make progress on a number of them.

We will keep PE2071 open and, as has been suggested, write to the cabinet secretary, with a view to hearing evidence from him later in the year. Are colleagues content with the proposals?

Members *indicated agreement.*