

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee
Wednesday 14 January 2026
1st Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

PE2101: Provide Defibrillators for all Primary and Secondary Schools in Scotland

Introduction

Petitioner Peter Earl on behalf of Troqueer Primary School

Petition summary Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide Primary and Secondary Schools with Automated External Defibrillators (AED).

Webpage <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2101>

1. The Committee last considered this petition at its meeting on 7 May 2025. At that meeting, the Committee agreed to invite the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health to give evidence at a future meeting.
2. The petition summary is included in **Annexe A** and the Official Report of the Committee's last consideration of this petition is at **Annexe B**.
3. Written submissions received prior to the Committee's last consideration can be found on the petition's webpage.
4. Further background information about this petition can be found in the SPICe briefing for this petition.
5. The Scottish Government gave its initial response to the petition on 4 June 2024.
6. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 586 signatures have been received on this petition.
7. At its meeting on 12 November 2025, the Committee took evidence on emergency cardiac and stroke care issues that have been raised in multiple petitions, including this petition.

Action

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

Clerks to the Committee
January 2026

Annexe A: Summary of petition

PE2101: Provide Defibrillators for all Primary and Secondary Schools in Scotland

Petitioner

Peter Earl on behalf of Troqueer Primary School

Date Lodged

21 May 2024

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide Primary and Secondary Schools with Automated External Defibrillators (AED).

Background information

After a trip to our local Operation Safety event, we looked into the availability of defibrillators in our local area. We were shocked to find out how under resourced our local area was. We do have a local defibrillator but we discovered it was too far away to have a positive impact on anybody who might suffer a cardiac arrest at our school. During events, busy periods we could have up to 400 - 500 people on site. It is not safe enough to not have an AED at hand.

We decided to raise money to buy an AED ourselves. We have learned a lot about enterprise, AEDs, the circulatory system, and how important these devices are.

Our schools are worryingly under resourced compared to other parts of the UK. Providing defibrillators in schools will also help local communities and should be considered as a matter of urgency. The lives of pupils and staff members are being put at risk.

Please help us to get them provided in ALL schools.

Annexe B: Extract from Official Report of last consideration of PE2101, on 7 May 2025

The Convener: Mr Ewing has referred to the next petition, PE2101, which was lodged by Peter Earl on behalf of Troqueer primary school. It calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide primary and secondary schools with automated external defibrillators. When the committee last considered the petition, in September 2024, we agreed to write to the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health. Members will recall that we highlighted the UK Government's provision of defibrillators to all schools in England and asked whether the Scottish Government would provide direct funding to do the same. I think that that might have been the example to which I was referring a moment ago.

The minister's response reiterates that local authorities make decisions on purchasing, installing and maintaining defibrillators for schools in their area. The response also states that solutions to improve survival from cardiac arrest may differ between areas. The Save a Life for Scotland partnership takes a data-driven approach to working with local authorities to understand the chain of survival in their areas and how to improve it.

The committee has also received a written submission from Rodger Hill. Rodger, as most of us will now know, is the father of our late parliamentary colleague, the researcher David Hill, who died while playing rugby for the Scottish Parliament rugby team in Ireland. The submission outlines the work undertaken by the charity set up in David's memory, the DH9 Foundation, which includes facilitating the installation of 42 defibrillators in Dumfries and Galloway. Mr Hill's freedom of information requests reveal that, of 2,446 schools, 893 have defibrillators on site. The submission calls for a renewed commitment from the Scottish Government to deliver cardiopulmonary resuscitation training to every child in schools biennially, and it calls for grant funding to provide defibrillators in schools across Scotland.

Mr Ewing has suggested that we couple the petition with the previous one and advise the minister that we would like to take evidence on both of them. Do members agree with Mr Ewing's suggestion?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: Both petitions will be kept open, and we will be able to examine the issues in detail with the minister when she is available to give evidence.